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Vol. XXXIII



# Council Proceedings

## Official Report

# Bengal Legislative Council

## Thirty-third Session, 1929

5th to 9th August, 1929

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## **GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.**

### **GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.**

**His Excellency Colonel the Right Hon'ble Sir FRANCIS STANLEY  
JACKSON, P.C., G.C.I.E.**

### **MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.**

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY, C.I.E., I.C.S., in charge of the  
following portfolios:—**

1. Appointment.
2. Political, excluding Haj Pilgrimage.
3. Police.
4. Ecclesiastical.
5. Regulation of medical and other professional qualifications  
and standards, subject to legislation by the Indian  
Legislature.
6. Judicial.

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER, K.T., C.I.E., in charge of  
the following portfolios:—**

1. Land Revenue.
2. Land Acquisition.
3. Excluded Areas.
4. Jails.
5. Legislative.
6. Local Self-Government.

**GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.**

The Hon'ble ALHADJ Sir ABDELKERIM GHUZNAVI, K.T., in charge of the following portfolios:—

1. Emigration.
2. Immigration.
3. Jurisdiction.
4. Haj Pilgrimage.
5. Forests.
6. Irrigation.
7. Agriculture and Industries (excluding Excise).
8. Registration.

The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McALPIN, C.I.E., I.C.S., in charge of the following portfolios:—

1. Finance.
2. Separate Revenue.
3. Commerce and Industrial subjects.
4. Marine.
5. European Education.
6. Education.
7. Excise.
8. Public Works.

**GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.**

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**PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE  
COUNCIL.**

**PRESIDENT.**

The Hon'ble Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHAUDHURI, of Santosh.

**DEPUTY PRESIDENT.**

Mr. RAZAUR RAHMAN KHAN, B.L.

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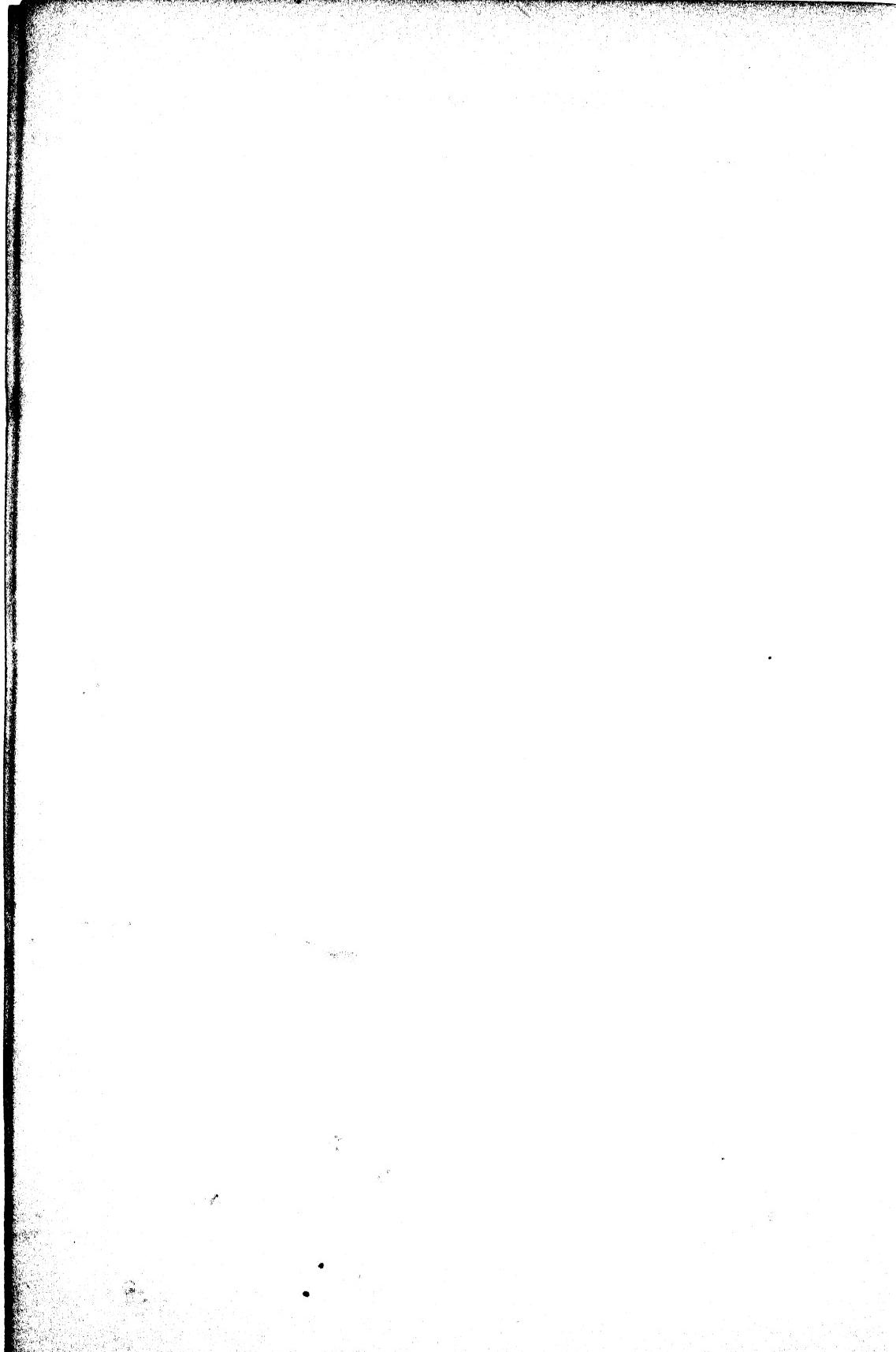
**Panel of Chairmen for the Thirty-third Session.**

1. Mr. W. L. TRAVERS, C.I.E., O.B.E.
2. Sir JADUNATH SARKAR, K.T., C.I.E.
3. Raja BHUPENDRA NARAYAN SINHA Bahadur, of Nashipur.
4. Mr. A. F. RAHMAN.

Secretary to the Council—J. BARTLEY, I.C.S.

Assistant Secretaries to the Council—A. M. HUTCHISON and K. N. MAJUMDAR.

Registrar to the Council—J. W. MCKAY (on leave).



## BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

### ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS.

#### A

- Ahmed, Maulvi Shamsuddin. [Hooghly cum Howrah Municipal (Muhammadan).]  
Ali, Maulvi Hassan. [Dinajpur (Muhammadan).]  
Ali, Maulvi Syed Nausher. [Jessore South (Muhammadan).]  
Ali, Mr. Altaf. [Bogra (Muhammadan).]

#### B

- Bagchi, Babu Romes Chandra. [Malda (Non-Muhammadan).]  
Baksh, Maulvi Syed Majid. [Jessore North (Muhammadan).]  
Banerjea, Dr. Pramathanath. [Calcutta East (Non-Muhammadan).]  
Banerjee, Babu Promotha Nath. [Midnapore South (Non-Muhammadan).]  
Banerji, Mr. P. [24-Parganas Rural South (Non-Muhammadan).]  
Bannerjee, Babu Jitendralal. [Birbhum (Non-Muhammadan).]  
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan, M.B.E. [Rangpur West (Non-Muhammadan).]  
Basiruddin, Maulvi Mohammed. [Rajshahi North (Muhammadan).]  
Basu, Babu Santosh Kumar. [24-Parganas Municipal South (Non-Muhammadan).]  
Blair, Mr. J. R. (Nominated Official.)  
Bose, Babu Bejoy Krishna. [Calcutta South (Non-Muhammadan).]  
Bose, Mr. Subhas Chandra. [Calcutta North (Non-Muhammadan).]

#### C

- Cassells, Mr. A. (Nominated Official.)  
Chakraburty, Babu Jatindra Nath. [Rangpur East (Non-Muhammadan).]  
Chakravarti, Babu Jogindra Chandra. [Dinajpur (Non-Muhammadan).]  
Chatterjee, Srijut Bijay Kumar. [Bankura West (Non-Muhammadan).]  
Chatterji, Babu Amarendranath. [Hooghly Municipal (Non-Muhammadan).]  
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Alimuzzaman. [Faridpur North Muhammadan.).]

## ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS.

- C**
- Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizur Rahman. (Nominated Non-official.)  
 Chaudhuri, Maulvi Ashrafuddin. [Tippera North (Muhammadan).]  
 Choudhury, Maulvi Nural Absar. [Chittagong North (Muhammadan).]  
 Chowdhury, Haji Badi Ahmed. [Chittagong South (Muhammadan).]  
 Chowdhury, Maulvi Abdul Ghani, B.L. [Dacca West Rural (Muhammadan).]  
 Clark, Mr. I. A. (Indian Mining Association.)  
 Cohen, Mr. D. J. (Nominated Non-official.)  
 Colman, Mr. E. R. (Indian Tea Association.)

## D

- Dain, Mr. G. R. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)  
 Das, Dr. Mohini Mohan. [Faridpur South (Non-Muhammadan).]  
 Das Gupta, Dr. J. M. [Calcutta Central (Non-Muhammadan).]  
 Dash, Mr. A. J. (Nominated Official.)  
 Datta, Babu Akhil Chandra. [Tippera (Non-Muhammadan).]  
 Dutt, Babu Saral Kumar. [Bakarganj North (Non-Muhammadan).]

## E

- Easson, Mr. G. A. (Nominated Official.)  
 Eusufji, Maulvi Nur Rahman Khan. [Mymensingh South-West (Muhammadan).]

## F

- Faroqui, Khan Bahadur K. G. M. [Tippera South (Muhammadan).]  
 Fazlullah, Maulvi Muhammad. [Noakhali West (Muhammadan).]  
 Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell. [Presidency and Burdwan (European).]

## G

- Ganguli, Babu Pratul Chandra. [Dacca City (Non-Muhammadan).]  
 Ghose, Babu Amarendra Nath. [Mymensingh West (Non-Muhammadan).]  
 Ghosh, Mr. M. C. (Nominated Official.)  
 Ghusnavi, the Hon'ble Alhadj Sir Abdelkerim, K.T. (Member, Executive Council.)  
 Gilechrist, Mr. R. N. (Nominated Official.)  
 Goenka, Rai Bahadur Badridas, C.I.E. (Bengal Marwari Association.)  
 Guha, Mr. P. N. (Nominated Non-official.)

## ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS.

Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra. [Calcutta South Central (Non-Muhammadan).]

Gurner, Mr. C. W. (Nominated Official.)

### H

Habibullah, Nawab Khwaja. [Dacca City (Muhammadan).]

Hakim, Maulvi Abdul. [Mymensingh Central (Muhammadan).]

Hashemy, Maulvi Syed Jalaluddin. [Khulna (Muhammadan).]

Haque, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Azizul. [Nadia (Muhammadan).]

Himatsingka, Babu Prabhu Doyal. [Calcutta West (Non-Muhammadan).]

Hogg, Mr. G. P. (Nominated Official.)

Hopkyns, Mr. W. S., C.I.E., O.B.E. (Nominated Official.)

Hoque, Kazi Emdadul. [Rangpur East (Muhammadan).]

Hosain, Nawab Musharruf, Khan Bahadur. [Malda cum Jalpaiguri (Muhammadan).]

Hossain, Maulvi Muhammad. [Bakarganj North (Muhammadan).]

Huq, Khan Sahib Maulvi Bazlul. [Noakhali East (Muhammadan).]

Huq, Mr. A. K. Fazl-ul. [Bakarganj West (Muhammadan).]

Hussain, Maulvi Latafat. (Nominated Non-official.)

### I

Insch, Mr. J. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

### J

Jenkins, Dr. W. A. (Nominated Official.)

### K

Karim, Maulvi Abdul. [Burdwan Division South (Muhammadan).]

Kasem, Maulvi Abul. [Burdwan Division North (Muhammadan).]

Khan, Babu Debendra Lal. [Midnapore North (Non-Muhammadan).]

Khan, Khan Sahib Maulvi Muazzam Ali. [Pabna (Muhammadan).]

Khan, Maulvi Tamizuddin. [Faridpur South (Muhammadan).]

\*Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman, B.L. [Dacca East Rural (Muhammadan).]

### L

Laird, Mr. R. B. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

Lal Muhammad, Haji. [Rajshahi South (Muhammadan).]

Lamb, Mr. T. (Indian Jute Mills Association.)

Law, Mr. Surendra Nath. (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.)

Leslie, Mr. M. (Calcutta Trades Association.)

\* Deputy President, Bengal Legislative Council.

## ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS.

## M

- Maguire, Mr. L. T. (Anglo-Indian.)  
 Maiti, Babu Mahendra Nath. [Midnapore South-East (Non-Muhammadan).]  
 Mallik, Mr. Mukunda Behari. (Nominated Non-official.)  
 Mazumdar, Mr. Birendranath, B.L. (Dacca University.)  
 McAlpin, the Hon'ble Mr. M. C., c.i.e. (Member, Executive Council.)  
 McCluskie, Mr. E. T. (Anglo-Indian.)  
 Mitter, Babu Rishikesh. [Burdwan North (Non-Muhammadan).]  
 Mitter, the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder, K.T., c.i.e. (Member, Executive Council.)  
 Moberly, the Hon'ble Mr. A. N., c.i.e. (Member, Executive Council.)  
 Moitra, Babu Surendra Mohan. [Rajshahi (Non-Muhammadan).]  
 Moitra, Srijut Jogendra Nath. [Bogra cum Pabna (Non-Muhammadan).]  
 Mookerjee, Mr. Syamaprosad, Bar-at-Law. (Calcutta University.)  
 Mukerjee, Srijut Taraknath. [Hooghly Rural (Non-Muhammadan).]

## N

- Nag, Babu Suk Lal. [Khulna (Non-Muhammadan).]  
 Nag, Reverend B. A. (Nominated Non-official.)  
 Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra. [24-Parganas Rural Central (Non-Muhammadan).]  
 Nazimuddin, Mr. Khwaja, c.i.e. [Bakarganj South (Muhammadan).]

## O

- Ordish, Mr. J. E. [Dacca and Chittagong (European).]  
 Ormond, Mr. E. C. [Burdwan and Presidency (European).]

## P

- Pain, Babu Baroda Prasanna. [Howrah Municipal (Non-Muhammadan).]  
 Pal Choudhuri, Mr. Ranjit. [Nadia (Non-Muhammadan).]  
 Philip, Mr. J. Y. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)  
 Poddar, Mr. Ananda Mohan. (Bengal Mahajan Sabha.)

## R

- Rahem, Mr. A., c.i.e. [Calcutta North (Muhammadan).]  
 Rahman, Maulvi Asizur. [Mymensingh North-West (Muhammadan).]

**ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS.**

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- Rahman, Mr. A. F. [Rangpur West (Muhammadan).]  
 Rahman, Mr. A. F. M. Abdur. [24-Parganas Rural (Muhammadan).]  
 Raikat, Mr. Prosanna Deb. [Jalpaiguri (Non-Muhammadan).]  
 Ray, Dr. Kumud Sankar. [Faridpur North (Non-Muhammadan).]  
 Ray, Kumar Shib Shekharwar. (Rajshahi Landholders.)  
 Ray, Srijut Radha Gobinda. [Bankura East (Non-Muhammadan).]  
 Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Sanat Kumar. [24-Parganas Rural North (Non-Muhammadan).]  
 Ray Chaudhuri, Mr. K. C. (Nominated Non-official.)  
 \*Ray Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble Raja Manmatha Nath, of Santosh. (Dacca Landholders.)  
 Rose, Mr. G. F. (Indian Jute Mills Association.)  
 Roy, Babu Manmatha Nath. [Howrah Rural (Non-Muhammadan).]  
 Roy, Dr. Bidhan Chandra. [24-Parganas Municipal North (Non-Muhammadan).]  
 Roy, Mr. Bijoy Prasad Singh. [Burdwan South (Non-Muhammadan).]  
 Roy, Mr. D. N., Bar-at-Law. [Jessore South (Non-Muhammadan).]  
 Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar. [Dacca Rural (Non-Muhammadan).]  
 Roy, Mr. Sadhan Chandra. (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.)  
 Roy, Mr. Sarat Kumar. (Presidency Landholders.)  
 Roy Choudhuri, Babu Hem Chandra. [Noakhali (Non-Muhammadan).]  
 Roy Choudhuri, Rai Bahadur Satyendra Nath. [Bakarganj South (Non-Muhammadan).]  
 Rushforth, Mr. F. V. [Presidency and Burdwan (European).]

8

- Saadatullah, Maulvi Muhammad. [24-Parganas Municipal (Muhammadan).]  
 Samad, Maulvi Abdus. [Murshidabad (Muhammadan).]  
 Sarkar, Sir Jadunath, K.T., C.I.E. (Nominated Non-official.)  
 Sarker, Babu Naliniranjan. [Mymensingh East (Non-Muhammadan).]  
 Sarker, Rai Sahib Rebati Mohan. (Nominated Non-official.)  
 Sen, Mr. J. M. (Expert nominated.)  
 Sen Gupta, Mr. J. M. [Chittagong (Non-Muhammadan).]  
 Shah, Maulvi Abdul Hamid. [Mymensingh East (Muhammadan).]  
 Skinner, Mr. S. A. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)  
 Singh, Srijut Taj Bahadur. [Murshidabad (Non-Muhammadan).]  
 Singha, Mr. Arun Chandra. (Chittagong Landholders.)  
 Sinha, Raja Bahadur Bhupendra Narayan, of Nashipur. (Burdwan Landholders.)

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\* President of the Bengal Legislative Council.

## ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS.

Solaiman, Maulvi Muhammad. [Barrackpore Municipal (Muham-madan).]  
Stapleton, Mr. H. E. (Nominated Official.)  
Suhrawardy, Mr. H. S. [Calcutta South (Muhammadan).]

## T

Tarkathirtha, Kaviraj Bimalananda, Pundit Bhushan. [Jessore North (Non-Muhammadan).]  
Tate, Major General Godfrey, M.B., K.H.S., I.M.S. (Nominated Official.)  
Thompson, Mr. W. H. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)  
Travers, Mr. W. L., C.I.E., O.B.E. [Rajshahi (European).]  
Twynam, Mr. H. J. (Nominated Official.)

# **THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.**

**(Official Report of the Thirty-third Session.)**

**Volume XXXIII.**

**Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.**

THE COUNCIL met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Monday, the 5th August 1929, at 3 p.m.

## **Present:**

Mr. President (the Hon'ble Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHAUDHURI, of Santosh), in the Chair, the four Hon'ble Members of the Executive Council, and 120 nominated and elected members.

## **Oaths or affirmations.**

The following members made an oath or affirmation of their allegiance to the Crown:—

Mr. JITENDRA MOHAN SEN.

Mr. PRIYA NATH GUHA.

Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARI MALLIK.

## **Announcement of the Election of Deputy President.**

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** Gentlemen, I have to inform the Council that His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to approve under section 72C (2) of the Government of India Act the election of Mr. Razaur Rahman Khan as Deputy President.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** I would, therefore, ask Mr. Razaur Rahman Khan to take the seat of the Deputy President.

(Mr. Razaur Rahman Khan then took his seat).

**Panel of Chairmen.**

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** In accordance with the provisions of Rule 3 of the Bengal Legislative Council Rules, 1920, I nominate the following members of the Council to form a panel of four Chairmen for the ensuing session:—

- (1) Mr. W. L. TRAVERS, C.I.E., O.B.E.
- (2) Sir JADUNATH SARKAR, K.T., C.I.E.
- (3) Raja BHUPENDRA NARAYAN SINHA Bahadur, of Nashipur.
- (4) Mr. A. F. RAHMAN.

Unless otherwise arranged, the senior member among them present in the above order named will preside over the deliberations of this Council in my absence and in the absence of the Deputy President.

**Obituary Reference.**

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** Gentlemen, I have to perform the melancholy duty of expressing the grief of this Council for the loss of five distinguished members. In the interval that has elapsed since the last sitting of the previous Council the deaths have occurred of Nawab Bahadur Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur, C.I.E., of Dhanbari, Babu Jogendra Nath Roy, eldest son of Raja Janaki Nath Roy of Bhagyakul (Dacca), Mr. Byomkesh Chakravarti, Mr. Justice E. B. H. Panton of the Calcutta High Court and Mr. John Cottle.

Nawab Bahadur Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, the late leader of this House, came from the Saiyid family of Dhanbari in Mymensingh. The family dates from the days of the Moghul Emperor Shah Jahan.

The late Nawab Bahadur was born at Natore in December, 1863, educated at the Rajshahi Collegiate School and later at St. Xavier's College, Calcutta. He was a member of the Eastern Bengal and Assam Legislative Council from 1906 to 1911, of the Bengal Legislative from 1912 to 1916, of the Imperial Legislative Council from 1916 to 1921. In 1921 he was returned as an elected member of the Bengal Legislative Council and was a member of the first Ministry in the reformed Council during 1921 to 1923. He was again returned as an elected member to the second reformed Council in December, 1923, and was appointed a Minister in March, 1925, but held office only for a short period. In the same year he was appointed a Member of the Executive Council. This office he

held till his death. He was a fellow of the Calcutta University and a member of a very large number of associations and public bodies. In recognition of his services he was made a Khan Bahadur in 1906, Nawab in 1911 at the Coronation Durbar at Delhi, a C.I.E. in 1918 and Nawab Bahadur in 1924. By his death Bengal has lost a true son and the Muhammadan community an ardent and fearless patron.

Babu Jogendra Nath Roy of Bhagyakul was a member of the Bengal Legislative Council during 1921 to 1923. He was one of the wealthiest men in Bengal carrying on an extensive business including inland navigation. The Bhagyakul family has always been noted for their liberality and the deceased member did not fail to carry on the family tradition.

The career of the late Mr. Byomkesh Chakravarti is known to most of us here. From humble beginnings he rose to be one of the foremost Barristers in Bengal and eventually held the high office of Minister. The last years of his life were unhappily clouded with illness and misfortune and his death came as a happy release. Bengal will, however, mourn his loss as a man who spent the greater portion of his life and his great and undoubted talents in her service.

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice E. B. H. Panton joined the Indian Civil Service in October, 1896, and after having served first as Magistrate and Collector and then as District and Sessions Judge in several districts of Bengal and Bihar and Orissa became the Superintendent and Remembrancer of Legal Affairs to the Government of Bengal in 1915, Judicial Secretary in 1918 and in the same year was appointed officiating Judge of the Calcutta High Court and was confirmed in this last appointment from 6th December, 1922. At different periods during the years 1915 to 1918 he was a member of the Bengal Legislative Council under the old constitution.

Mr. John Cottle was a member of this Council representing the Calcutta Trades Association Constituency for a few months in 1924. He died on the 18th July last. Mr. Cottle was the managing director of Morrison & Cottle Company, Ltd., and for a time master of the Calcutta Trades Association.

With your permission, gentlemen, I propose to convey the sympathy of this Council to the families of the deceased. I now request you, gentlemen, to show your respect to their memory by kindly rising in your places.

(All the members then rose in their places.)

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** Thank you, gentlemen. The Secretary will please take the usual steps.

**Starred Questions**

(to which oral answers were given).

**Allegations against the Police officer of Narail and the President,  
Chandiborpur Union Board.**

**\*1. Maulvi SHAMBUDDIN AHMED:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that on 4th March, 1929, Mr. Indu Bhushan Sircár of Sankarpur, police-station Narail, district Jessore, sent a memorial to the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly making serious allegations against the Police officer of Narail police-station and the President of Chandiborpur Union Board?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what action, if any, does the Government propose to take in the matter?

**MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly):** (a) In a memorial dated the 5th March, Mr. Sircar complained that the President and Sub-Inspector had not passed prompt orders regarding the cremation of the body of a relative of his.

(b) Mr. Sircar was informed that the memorial was sent to the District Magistrate for disposal and that further correspondence in the matter should be addressed to that officer. Government do not consider further action necessary.

**Typists and copyists of courts.**

**\*2. Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department aware that in the majority of cases the typists and copyists of Bengal courts are not obtaining the minimum standard of fees prescribed by the Hon'ble High Court General letter No. 8 of 1921?

(b) Are the Government considering the desirability of consulting the heads of districts to ensure the average earnings of the copyists and typists prescribed by the said letter by means of judicious transfers so far as practicable?

(c) Are the Government in consultation with the Hon'ble High Court considering the desirability of enhancing the copying fees to at least 3 annas out of 4 annas in the folio?

**MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly):** (a) Yes; in most of the districts of the Presidency the standard has not yet been reached.

(b) District Judges have already been directed not to fill vacancies till the standard rates laid down by the High Court are attained, and Government are watching the situation.

(c) No. But a bonus of 75 per cent. of the amount contributed by copyists and typists is added to their Provident Fund deposits annually and interest is credited at the same rate as in the General Provident Fund, viz., 4½ per cent.

**Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what would be the harm if the Government gave one anna more out of 4 annas in the folio to these poor typists?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** It would cost a considerable amount of money.

**Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE:** With reference to answer (c), is it a fact that Mr. Prentice, when officiating Member of the Executive Council, said that the proportion contributed by Government was cent. per cent. and not 75 per cent.?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** I must ask for notice of this question.

#### **Appointment of a Committee to inquire into the grievances of the steamer passengers and their fares.**

**\*3. MR. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Marine Department be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken by the Government to give effect to the resolution passed by this Council on the 11th February, 1929, regarding the appointment of a Committee to inquire into the grievances of the steamer passengers and their fares?

(b) If nothing has been done yet, what action, if any, do the Government propose to take in the matter?

**MEMBER in charge of MARINE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. M. G. McAlpin):** (a) and (b) The subject is still under the consideration of Government, who are consulting their technical and legal advisers on the various questions raised in the debate on the Resolution.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state on what point or points it has been found necessary to take advice of the technical advisers?

**The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McALPIN:** I want notice of this question.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state when such advice was sought?

**The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McALPIN:** Only after the debate.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the Government intends to give effect to the resolution passed by this House, or not?

**The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McALPIN:** That is one of the matters which are still under consideration.

**Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA:** When does the Hon'ble Member expect that the consideration of this matter will be over, so that action may be taken on the resolution passed by this House?

**The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McALPIN:** It is impossible to say.

**Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE:** Has the consideration commenced?

3-15 p.m.

**The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McALPIN:** The consideration has begun.

**Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY:** Does the Hon'ble Member hope that it will last the lifetime of this House?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** That is a frivolous question; it does not arise.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the names of the Government officials under whose consideration it is at present?

**The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McALPIN:** I understand it is under the consideration of various departments; it is not under the consideration of one particular officer.

**Pay and prospects of the assistants of the Bengal Legislative Department.**

**\*4. Kazi EMDADUL HOQUE:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Legislative Department be pleased to state whether the Government have considered the question of the "exceptional circumstances" of the pay and prospects of the upper and lower division assistants of the Bengal Legislative Department which was mooted in the Legislative Council on the 22nd March last, by Maulvi Syed Md. Afzal on a motion for a token cut of Rs. 100 under the head "22F.—Legislative Council"?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reason therefor?

(c) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether it is in the contemplation of Government to take any action in the matter?

(d) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what are the proposals or recommendations of the Legislative Department on the subject?

(e) When were the proposals made and by whom?

(f) What is the present stage of the proposals?

(g) Have the proposals been submitted to the Finance Department?

(h) If the answer to (g) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state why it was not submitted to the Finance Department?

(i) When are they expected to reach the Finance Department?

(j) Have the proposals been shown to the Hon'ble Member in charge and the Hon'ble President of the Council?

**MEMBER in charge of LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Provan Chunder Mitter):** (a) Yes.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The matter is still under consideration.

(d) to (i) Proposals were formulated by the Legislative Secretary in June. These are still under consideration in the department and have not yet reached the stage of submission to the Finance Department. It would be premature to state now what the final proposals will be.

(j) The proposals have been submitted to the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Legislative Department.

**Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE:** With reference to the penultimate paragraph of the answer, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what are the specific proposals put forward by the Legislative Secretary?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I am afraid I cannot say that. It is a matter between an officer of the department and the head of the department; it is not usual to disclose that.

**Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE:** May I know whether the Hon'ble Member wants privilege as regards not disclosing the fact?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** The Hon'ble Member has already explained that the matter is still under consideration and has not reached the stage of submission to the Finance Department.

**Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE:** But, Sir, the two portions of the answer are inconsistent.

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** The point is this: I have already explained that the matter is still under consideration, and that is why it is not proper to disclose it.

**Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state why the modified proposals—

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** Order, order. For the simple reason, that the proposals referred to are still under consideration, the Council should not want to know what these proposals are.

#### Separation of the office of the Legislative Council from that of the Legislative Department.

**"5. Kazi EMDADUL HOQUE:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Legislative Department be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken by him in the light of the statement made by him in the Council on the 12th February, 1929, on the resolution regarding the separation of the office of the Legislative Council from that of the Legislative Department?

(b) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking the question into consideration?

(c) When is the personnel of the Committee proposed by the Hon'ble Member in charge likely to be published?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** (a) On the close of the February-March session of the last Council inquiries were addressed to all Provincial Councils with a view to the collection of material to place before the Committee which it was proposed to appoint. The personnel of the Committee was also under consideration when the Council was dissolved.

(b) Yes.

(c) The dissolution of the Council rendered it necessary to postpone the question of appointment of the Committee; the matter is now under consideration and it is hoped to make an announcement at an early date.

#### Typists and copyists.

**\*6. Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether the copyists and typists employed in various offices throughout the province have submitted any representation to Government for the improvement of the conditions of their service in the course of this year?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what action, if any, do the Government intend to take in the matter?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** (a) Yes.

(b) The standard average earning (viz., Rs. 65 a month for typists and Rs. 40 a month for copyists) laid down by the High Court has already been reached in some districts, and to make it universal in all the districts in the Presidency the District Judges have been instructed not to fill up vacancies among typists and copyists till the standard is attained. Further, to ensure that the matter is not overlooked, the District Judges have also been asked to submit annual statements showing the reduction of staff effected and the progress made in attaining the standard average earning. Information already obtained shows that the situation is steadily improving, and Government do not propose to take any further action in the matter.

#### Supply of mosquito curtains to the prisoners in the jails.

**\*7. Srijut TARAKNATH MUKERJEA:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the prisoners in the jails, specially in malarious districts, suffer for want of mosquito curtains?

(b) Are the Government considering the desirability of supplying mosquito curtains to the prisoners at least in the malarious districts?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what other steps are being taken to protect the prisoners from being bitten by infectious mosquitoes?

**MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL (JAILS) DEPARTMENT  
(the Hon'ble Sir Provan Chunder Mitter):** (a) It is probable that if all prisoners slept under mosquito curtains there would be fewer cases of fresh infection of malaria.

(b) Yes, in consultation with the Public Health Department.

(c) Does not arise.

**Dr. KUMUD SARKAR RAY:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether any survey has been made of the incidence of malaria in the different jails?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I must ask for notice of this.

#### Rewards to panchayets, and presidents and members of union boards.

**\*8. Srijut TARAKNATH MUKERJEA:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state the principle on which rewards and certificates are awarded to the presidents and members of union boards?

(b) Does the Government pay the costs for those rewards?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state from which fund it is paid?

(d) If the Government does not bear the costs of these rewards, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state from what other fund it is paid?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** (a) Rewards are given by District Officers to chaukidari panchayets for good conduct in special cases or for general meritorious service. Where union boards have been substituted for chaukidari panchayets, presidents and members of union boards are deemed to be eligible in the same way.

(b) Yes.

(c) From the grant under the head—

26—Police—District Executive Force—Supplies and Services—  
Rewards to Village Panchayets.

(d) Does not arise.

**Srijut TARAKNATH MUKERJEA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state if the fines realised from the dafadars and chaukidars are given as rewards to the presidents and members of the union boards?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** No.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** On whose recommendation about the merits or otherwise of the services of the president and members of the union boards are the rewards given?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** The rewards are given by the District Officers at their discretion.

#### Police constables.

**\*S. Srijut TARAKNATH MUKERJEA:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state the total number existing at present of police constables who are serving in the—

- (1) Calcutta Police; and
- (2) Bengal Police?

(b) How many of them are—

- (1) Bengali Hindus;
- (2) Bengali Mussalmans;
- (3) Up-country Hindus;
- (4) Up-country Mussalmans; and
- (5) Of other castes?

(c) Is it a fact that most of the police constables are recruited from outside Bengal?

(d) What is the percentage of Bengali Hindus and Mussalmans to the total strength of the police constables in Bengal?

(e) If the answer to (c) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reasons why the majority of the police constables are not recruited from amongst the Bengali Mussalmans and Hindus?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** (a) On the 31st December, 1928, there were 4,514 constables in the Calcutta Police and 19,362 in the Bengal Police.

(b) The latest dates up to which statistics showing the racial composition of the two forces have been compiled are the 31st December, 1928, for the Calcutta Police, and the 30th September, 1928, for the Bengal Police, on which dates there were in the Calcutta and Bengal forces, respectively—

- (1) 110 and 3,400 Bengali Hindu constables.
- (2) 94 and 3,701 Bengali Muhammadan constables.
- (3) 3,286 and 9,946 Up-country Hindu constables, including Buddhists and other castes in the Calcutta figures.
- (4) 1,024 and 1,491 Up-country Muhammadan constables, and
- (5) 922 constables of other castes in the Bengal force.

(c) Yes.

(d) On the 30th September, 1928, the percentage of Bengali Hindu and Mussalman constables in the Bengal Police was 36·3; on the 31st December, 1928, it was 4·5 in the Calcutta force.

(e) Because sufficient Bengalis of the required physical standard do not present themselves for enrolment as constables.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what is the required physical standard?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** I want notice of this question.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Could the physical standard be changed so as to adapt it to the conditions of Bengal and secure healthy men from Bengal for the Police Service?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** One of the reasons for the increase in pay was that we could not get people of the required physical standard. The result of getting people below the required standard in order to prevent the strength of the Police from falling too low was that by the time the constables were trained the wastage was excessive and a very large number of constables had to be got rid of. The remainder were physically unfit and the number of casualties from sickness was very heavy indeed, and only a small proportion of the constables were able to serve their whole time. For this reason it is most undesirable that the physical standard should be lowered.

**Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY:** Was the physical standard fixed in such a way as to exclude all Bengalis from the service?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** That is a matter of opinion.

**Establishment of union boards in Mograhat and Falta, 24-Parganas.**

\*10. **Mr. P. BANERJI:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government is going to establish union boards under the Village Self-Government Act, 1919 (Ben. Act V of 1919), in the Falta and Mograhat thanas of Diamond Harbour subdivision of the 24-Parganas district?

(b) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether public opinion was taken in the matter?

(c) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that public opinion in the areas concerned is decidedly against the establishment of such union boards?

**MEMBER in charge of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER):** (a) It is proposed to establish eight union boards in the Mograhat thana and one in the Falta thana of the 24-Parganas.

(b) Yes.

(c) This does not appear to be the case. The proposal was not approved, by a majority, by the Local Board, but received the approval of the District Board and is reported to have been well received in the villages. Only a few weeks ago the Commissioner on tour in this area received a petition from the local Panchayat Association pressing for the establishment of union boards.

**Mr. P. BANERJI:** Is it not a fact that the Local Board of Diamond Harbour has always been turned down in connection with the establishment of a union board?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I have already stated that "the proposal was not approved by a majority, by the local board"—at least they did not approve. If the member wants further information, I must ask for notice of the question.

**Typists and copyists of Courts.**

\*11. **Mashvi SYED MAJID BAKSH:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of framing rules to grant casual leave with remuneration to typists and copyists?

(b) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken on the memorials of the typists and copyists submitted to the Government and the Hon'ble High Court with regard to the fixing of a suitable salary to them?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** (a) Typists and copyists are paid by fees and are not salaried Government servants. The question of the grant to them of casual leave with remuneration does not, therefore, arise.

(b) The question of organising typists and copyists on a salaried basis was fully examined last year, and it was decided not to take any action in that direction.

**Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH:** May I know what objection is there to putting these typists and copyists on a salary basis as in other departments?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** In the first place they are piece workers, and it has been decided that work of this kind is best treated as piece work. In the second place, the cost would be enormous.

**Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH:** Cannot this piece work be jointly considered as a whole?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** That is no question.

3-30 p.m.

#### Separation of the Judicial from the Executive.

\*12. **Mr. JOGESW CHANDRA GUPTA:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state what has become of the proposal regarding the separation of the Judicial from the Executive?

(b) Has the Government received any communication in the matter either from the Secretary of State or from the Government of India recently?

(c) Does the Government intend to take any action in the matter?

(d) If so, when?

**MEMBER in charge of APPOINTMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly):** (a), (b), (c) and (d) The Member is referred to the answer given in the Council of State on the 11th September, 1928, to a question asked on the subject by the Hon'ble Mr. Mahmood Subrawardy, a copy of which is laid on the library table.

In view of this reply, the Government of Bengal cannot take any further action.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the Bengal Government are contemplating any variation with regard to the relation of Judicial and Executive, as I find in the reply referred to by the Hon'ble Member that minor variations were left to the Provincial Government?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** I have nothing to add to my answer.

#### Introduction of elective system for the Malda District Board.

\*13. **Babu ROMES CHANDRA BAGCHI:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state what steps, if any, have so far been taken to introduce elective system in the District Board of Malda?

(b) Is it a fact that proposals are going on to establish local boards in the district?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state where and how many local boards are going to be established?

(d) When is the elective system likely to be fully introduced in the Malda District Board?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** (a) to (d) The elective system is likely to be introduced for the Malda District Board at the next reconstitution of the District Board after a local board has been formed. Notification No. 1266 L. S.-G., dated the 8th April, 1929, notified the intention of the Government of Bengal to establish a local board for the whole district of Malda; and it is hoped that final orders will not be long delayed.

**Babu ROMES CHANDRA BAGCHI:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether all the local bodies in the Malda district will enjoy the privilege of elective system when it is established there?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I want notice of the question.

#### Settlement at Barisal regarding processions with music along public thoroughfares.

\*14. **Babu PRATUL CHANDRA GANOLI:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police Department aware that a settlement

was made at Barisal on the 7th July, 1928, in presence of the District Magistrate about the right of leading procession with music along public thoroughfares in front of mosques, etc.?

(b) If so, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the terms of that settlement?

(c) Is it not a fact that several criminal cases (including a case under section 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code) against Srijut Satindra Nath Sen and others were withdrawn by the local authorities after that settlement?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** (a) Yes.

(b) "We, the undersigned persons representing Hindus, Muhammadans, Christians, and other communities residing in this district, do hereby agree and declare—

(1) that every member of the public has the right to take processions with music along all public thoroughfares throughout the district at all hours, subject to the statutory power of the Magistrate regarding control of such processions.

(2) that every community will strive to promote and maintain good feeling amongst all classes of the people,

(3) that the original of this agreement and declaration will remain in the office of the District Magistrate to be permanently preserved—authenticated copies of which may be available to any member of the public on payment of cost—and one original copy will be supplied to each of the communities joining in this agreement."

(c) No case against Srijut Satindra Nath Sen was withdrawn—three cases against 23 other persons were withdrawn after the settlement.

**Selection grade posts to the Lower Division assistants of the Bengal Legislative Department.**

\*15. **Kazi EMDADUL MOQUE:** (a) With reference to the Finance Department order No. 916-F., dated the 31st January, 1929, will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Legislative Department be pleased to state whether the Government have since considered the question of granting of special selection grade posts to the Lower Division assistants of the Bengal Legislative Department?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what further orders have been passed in that connection?

(c) If the question has not been further considered in the interest of the Legislative Department, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reason therefor?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** (a), (b) and (c) Memorials received from the Lower Division assistants on this point and others relating to their pay and prospects are under consideration.

**Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to tell us "under consideration" by whom?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** Under the consideration of Government.

**Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE:** Are the proposals ripe for submission to the Finance Department?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I have nothing to add to what I have said already.

#### Subscribing to "Liberty" by Government servants.

\*16. **Kaviraj BIMALANANDA TARKATIRTHA:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the officiating District Magistrate of Jessore has issued a circular prohibiting Government servants from subscribing to *Liberty*?

(b) Is this action due to any circular issued by Government placing a ban on *Liberty*?

**MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly):** (a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) The question does not arise.

#### Selection grade posts in the Lower Division of the Bengal Secretariat.

\*17. **Kazi EMDADUL HOQUE:** (a) With reference to the replies given to unstarred questions Nos. 30 and 41 at the Council

meetings held on the 8th and 11th February, 1929, respectively, will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state—

- (i) why an extra selection grade post has been sanctioned in the Agriculture and Industries Department having 15 Lower Division assistants, and
  - (ii) why the same privilege has not been extended to the Education and Irrigation Departments both having 15 Lower Division assistants?
  - (b) Is it a fact that an additional selection grade post has been sanctioned in the case of the Lower Division assistants of the Public Works Department having 27 Lower Division assistants, over and above the number to which they are entitled according to the present rules?
  - (c) If the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the circumstances under which the additional post was sanctioned?
  - (d) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state why no additional selection grade post was sanctioned for the Revenue Department which has got 28 Lower Division assistants?
- MEMBER in charge of FINANCE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McAlpin):** (a) (i) The figure 15 shown under column 2 against Agriculture and Industries Departments in the statement laid on the table in reply to clause (a) of Question 30 was an error and should have been 17. An extra selection grade post—bringing the total of such posts to two—has been sanctioned, as this is admissible according to the 10 per cent. rule.
- (ii) Does not arise.
  - (b) No.
  - (c) Does not arise.
  - (d) The maximum number admissible is three—the existing number of selection grade posts in the department.

#### Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

#### Allegation of canvassing at the Legislative Council election against District Judge, Bankura.

1. **Shriji BIJAY KUMAR CHATTERJEE:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state

whether the Government has received any telegram or letter complaining that Mr. J. De, District Judge of Bankura, openly canvassed for Mr. J. N. Gupta, a candidate for election to the Bengal Legislative Council at the last general election?

- (b) Was an open inquiry demanded on this point?
- (c) What are the reasons for not instituting an open inquiry?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** (a) Government received a telegram purporting to have been sent by the member who has asked this question in which it was stated that there was a strong local rumour that some pleaders and civil court assistants were canvassing at the instance of Mr. De.

(b) An inquiry was asked for.

(c) As Mr. De denied the rumour for the truth of which the sender of the telegram did not appear to vouch, no further action was considered necessary.

**Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY:** Was any telegram sent to Srijut Bijay Kumar Chatterjee?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** Not that I know of.

**Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY:** Does the Hon'ble Member mean to say that Mr. Chatterjee was not prepared to vouch for the statement made in his telegram?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** I stated that the sender of the telegram did not appear to vouch for the correctness of the telegram. I am afraid I have not got the telegram with me but the sender referred to a rumour.

**Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state when and how did Mr. De deny these rumours?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** I must ask for fresh notice of this question.

**Mr. D. N. ROY:** Was the denial of the District Judge of Bankura considered sufficient?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** Yes, in view of the circumstances.

**Sabu SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** Did the Hon'ble Member think it necessary to make any reference to the sender of the telegram as to whether he was prepared to vouch for its correctness or not?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** No.

**Babu BEJOY KRISHNA BOSE:** In view of the fact that a member of this Council vouches for the telegram, are the Government now prepared to start an inquiry?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** No, Sir.

**Babu BEJOY KRISHNA BOSE:** May I know the reasons?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly:** The matter is finished.

**Mr. D. N. ROY:** Cannot the question be re-opened?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** The member has been returned and I do not see how the question can be re-opened now.

**Allegation of canvassing at election against Subdivisional Officer, Bankura.**

**2. Srijut BIJAY KUMAR CHATTERJEE:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state how long Babu Anadi Ranjan Bose is stationed at Bankura as Sub-divisional Officer?

(b) Did the Government receive any complaint against him about his meddling in election affairs?

(c) Is it a fact that he was in charge of Bengal Legislative Council Election in Bankura and in charge of election office?

(d) Is it a fact that he openly canvassed for Mr. J. N. Gupta?

(e) Did the Government receive any telegram for an open inquiry?

(f) If so, what steps, if any, have the Government taken on the said telegram?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** (a) Since October 25th, 1926.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) No.

(e) Government received a telegram in which immediate intervention was requested. There was no request for an inquiry.

(f) None; the matter was primarily one for the local officers, and there was no indication that they had been approached.

**Mr. Musaffar Ahmed, a convict in the Cawnpur Bolshevik case.**

**S. Maulvi SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state whether this Government has issued any instructions to the Government of the United Provinces to take special care of Mr. Musaffar Ahmed of Bengal, a convict in the Cawnpur Bolshevik case, who is reported to be suffering from phthisis, as a patient and an invalid?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** No such request has been made by this Government.

**Maulana Md. Akram Khan's pilgrimage to Mecca.**

**4. Maulvi SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Mussalman pilgrims generally visit Mecca, Medina and Palestine, the three important shrines, when they go to pilgrimage from India?

(b) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that Maulana Md. Akram Khan was not granted a passport to visit Palestine when he went to pilgrimage to Mecca this year?

(c) If no passport was granted to him, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reason therefor?

(d) Is it a fact that persons other than Maulana Md. Akram Khan were granted passports to visit Palestine this year?

(e) If the answer to (d) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reasons for the differential treatment?

(f) Is it a fact that the political views of Maulana Md. Akram Khan stood in the way of the privilege of visiting the holy shrine of Palestine?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** (a) The majority of Mussalman pilgrims from India do not visit Palestine.

(b) and (c) Maulana Md. Akram Khan did not apply for a passport to visit Palestine.

(d) Yes.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

**Expenditure for conducting the general election of members in 1920 and 1922.**

**5. Shriji TARAKNATH MUKERJEE:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state the

total expenditure incurred by Government for conducting the general election of members to the Bengal Legislative Council in the years 1926 and 1929 respectively?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** In 1926 the cost of preparing electoral rolls was Rs. 1,34,935-15-7. The cost of conducting the elections was Rs. 77,011-4-10. The cost of conducting the elections in 1929 is not yet known.

#### Rural water-supply in the 24-Parganas.

**C. Maulvi MUHAMMAD SAADATULLAH:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Local Self-Government Department aware that the people of the major portions of the 24-Parganas district acutely suffer for want of good drinking water?

(b) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking any special measure for an adequate supply of good drinking water?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** (a) and (b) The problem of rural water-supply in the 24-Parganas is similar to that in many other districts. The following extract from the Commissioner's report on District Boards for the year 1927-28 goes to show that the position is improving:—

"In the 24-Parganas sinking of 150 tube-wells, excavation of 5 tanks, re-excavation of 25 tanks and two masonry wells were completed during the year under report. In addition a good number of tube-wells were sunk by the Union Boards. The excavation of seven tanks, four masonry wells and sinking of 40 tube-wells were under construction. The total number of tube-wells came to 841, and the Board maintained a staff consisting of one Inspector, one mechanic and five mistries to look after them. A sum of Rs. 12,898 was paid by the Board for the combined water-supply scheme to supplement the Government grant placed under the District Magistrate for the sinking of tube-wells and excavation of tanks in rural areas done through the Local Boards, Union Boards and Union Committees. It is reported that the Board was able to remove to some extent the water scarcity of the district."

The expenditure of the District Board on water-supply in the same year was Rs. 96,247, and the proposals for a special water-supply loan include an application for a loan of Rs. 1,00,000 from this Board. An annual allotment is made by the Commissioner to the District Magistrate out of the provision of Rs. 2,50,000 for expenditure on water-supply. Government have no special measures in contemplation for this district apart from its general policy.

**Babu MANMATHA NATH ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state when the scheme for a loan of a crore of rupses to the district boards which was proposed three years ago is to be given effect to?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** That does not arise over this question. This question is only limited to the district of the 24-Parganas. There is another question relating to the whole province when this supplementary question might arise.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** The question does not arise and the Hon'ble Member need not reply.

#### Barisal Medical School.

**7. Rai SATYENDRA NATH ROY CHOUDHURI Bahadur:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Local Self-Government (Medical) Department be pleased to state—

- (i) when the allotment for the construction of Barisal Medical School will be made;
- (ii) when the construction is likely to begin; and
- (iii) when the school is likely to be started?

**MEMBER in charge of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (MEDICAL) DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter):** (i) A supplementary demand for Rs. 84,366, the first instalment of the funds required, is before this session of the Legislative Council.

- (ii) As soon as possible after the land acquisition proceedings, which, it is hoped, will be completed before the end of the year.
- (iii) It is too early to forecast the date of opening the school.

#### Gumti flood.

**8. Babu AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Revenue Department aware that there was a disastrous flood in the district of Tippera in June, 1929, owing to breaches in the embankments of the Gumti river?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

- (i) the area affected by the flood;
- (ii) the area of agricultural land so affected;

- (iii) the area of that portion of the affected land on which standing paddy crop was destroyed at the time of the flood;
- (iv) the total value of the crop damaged; and
- (v) the total damage to houses and other properties?

**MEMBER in charge of REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter):** (a) Yes

- (b) (i) 97·75 square miles.
- (ii) 53 square miles.
- (iii) 45·66 square miles.
- (iv) Rupees 24,56,550 (Rs. 17,54,400 for paddy and Rs. 7,02,150 for jute).
- (v) 25 to 30 houses were actually brought down. There was no loss of life or cattle.

**Loan for rural water-supply asked by the District Board of Hooghly.**

**9. Srijut TARAKNATH MUKERJEA:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the District Board of Hooghly applied to the Government for a loan of Rs. 2,00,000 for rural water-supply about two years ago?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state when this loan is likely to be granted?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** (a) and (b) The Hooghly District Board resolved last year to approach Government for a loan of Rs. 3,00,000 as part of the scheme for a water-supply loan; but details of the proposals and the formal application for the loan have not yet been received. As most of the District Boards that applied for loans for water-supply did not follow the suggestions contained in the Government letter of the 28th May, 1928, and as some of the District Boards made a number of fresh proposals it became necessary to examine certain questions raised in the letters of the various District Boards. The questions so raised are still under the consideration of Government, and a further communication will be made to the Hooghly District Board after a decision has been reached.

**Proposed overbridge line for Khuina Chat station.**

**10. Maulvi SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Public Works (Railways) Department

be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the passengers from Khulna station intending to board different steamers of various lines from Khulna line station are to cross the railway line with a considerable risk of their lives?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what step the Government propose to take in the matter?

(c) Are the Government considering the desirability of asking the Railway authorities either to construct an overbridge or to make another platform opposite the station for the steamer passengers?

**MEMBER in charge of PUBLIC WORKS (RAILWAYS) DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McAlpin):** (a) For certain steamer services passengers have to cross the railway lines. No case of accident arising therefrom is on record, which would have been avoided had there been an overbridge.

(b) and (c) The Railway authorities recognise the desirability of constructing an overbridge and have called for detailed plans and estimates. The work will be taken in hand as soon as funds can be allotted.

#### Bills to amend certain Bengal Acts.

**11. Srijut TARAKNATH MUKERJEA:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state whether it is in the contemplation of Government to introduce in the Bengal Legislative Council in the near future Bills to amend—

- (1) the Bengal Local Self-Government Act of 1885 (Bengal Act III of 1885);
- (2) the Bengal Village Self-Government Act, 1919 (Bengal Act V of 1919); and
- (3) the Bengal Municipal Act, 1884?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state when those amending Bills are expected to be ready for introduction in the Council?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** (a) and (b) There is scope for the amendment of these Acts, but no Bills for the purpose are included in the legislative programme of Government for this Session, nor can it be said when they will be introduced.

**Procession with music in public thoroughfares of Patuakhali.**

**12. Dr. MOHINI MOHAN DAS:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police Department aware that the settlement of the Patuakhali dispute was effected at Barisal on the 7th July, 1928?

(b) Is it a fact that prominent members of all communities and Government officials in the district were parties to this settlement?

(c) Is it a fact that several criminal cases against Srijut Satindra Nath Sen and others were withdrawn by the authorities as a part of the settlement?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) No case against Srijut Satindra Nath Sen was withdrawn. Three cases against 23 other persons were withdrawn in view of but not as part of the settlement.

**Supply of food to Bengali prisoners transferred outside.**

**13. Babu PRATUL CHANDRA CANGULI:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether the Bengali political prisoners transferred to other provinces are supplied with food to which they are accustomed?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** (a) and (b) Bengali prisoners are supplied with food according to the rules in force in the Province in which they are confined.

**Babu PRATUL CHANDRA CANGULI:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the Bengal political prisoners transferred to other provinces are supplied with food to which they are accustomed? The answer already given in the printed paper in reply to my question is no answer to my question. Therefore I am repeating it.

**Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA:** On a point of order, Sir, I submit that the answer which is printed is no answer to the first part of the question. The question was whether the Bengal Political prisoners transferred to other provinces are supplied with food to which they are accustomed and the answer was that the Bengal prisoners are supplied with food according to the rules in force in the province in which they have been transferred. I submit this is no answer.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** I have had on several occasions to meet points like the one that you have raised and every time I made it abundantly clear that the members have got to accept the answers as they are and they can not insist upon a Member of Government to give any answer other than what he had thought fit to give.

**Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA:** Now that we have pointed this out will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to give a proper answer to the question?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** I have not the slightest objection to admit it as a supplementary question.

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I have given as full a reply as possible and furthermore I feel the hon'ble member will realise that it is not a matter within my special cognisance.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** The point is whether Bengal political prisoners transferred to other provinces are supplied with food to which they are accustomed.

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I am not in a position to add anything more as it relates to other provinces.

**Maulvi ABUL KASEM:** Are we to understand that the Member of the Government can give any answer relevant or irrelevant which he thinks necessary in reply to a question? If so, what is our remedy?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** I have often told you that the remedy lies in putting supplementary questions.

**Mr. D. N. ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the food supplied according to the rules in force in the province is the food which is usually taken by Bengalis?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I cannot tell you. It relates to various provinces.

**Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA:** Does the Hon'ble Member know that rice is the food generally taken by Bengalis and in other provinces chapatis are supplied to prisoners?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I know that. In other provinces the prisoners are supplied food according to rules in force in the jail there.

**Babu SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** Was any attempt made by the Hon'ble Member to find out whether the food supplied was according to the Bengal custom and whether any specific inquiry was made?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** No, because under the Jail Code it is not perhaps always possible.

**Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH:** Is it not possible to make inquiries with a view to change the rules in the Jail Codes of other provinces?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** No, it is not possible for another province.

#### Receiving barge at Sandwip station.

**14. Maulvi SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Marine Department aware that recently the flat steamer attached to the Sandwip station in the Barisal-Chittagong line was damaged by the storm?

(b) Is the Hon'ble Member also aware that it has been replaced by a much smaller flat steamer?

(c) Is it also a fact that the latter is very unsuitable and risky for the landing of passengers?

(d) If the answer to (c) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what steps, if any, the Government proposes to take in the matter?

**The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McALPIN:** (a) Yes. The receiving barge at Sandwip was slightly damaged in a storm on the 5th June last and had to be withdrawn for repairs.

(b) The dimensions of the barge which was withdrawn were 85' x 16' x 7', and it was replaced by one measuring 75' x 18' x 7'.

(c) The present receiving barge is fitted in exactly the same manner as the one which has been withdrawn, and a similar barge served at Sandwip satisfactorily for a period of about two years prior to August, 1927.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Provident Fund of teachers in non-Government Arts Colleges.

**15. Maulvi SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Education Department aware that many aided and unaided private Arts colleges are being managed on a deficit budget?

(b) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that some of these colleges have not been able to start Provident Funds for the teachers owing to shortness of funds?

(c) Are the Government considering the desirability of giving special grants to these colleges towards their Provident Funds, as they have done in the case of many secondary schools? If so, when?

**MEMBER in charge of EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McAlpin):** (a) Government are aware that some non-Government Arts colleges have been financially affected, perhaps temporarily, on account of fall in the number of students and the consequent diminished fee-income.

(b) Government have no information.

(c) No.

#### Grants to local statutory bodies.

**16. Babu SANAT KUMAR RAY CHAUDHURI:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(i) the amount actually paid out of Provincial revenues as grants to—

- (1) municipalities,
- (2) district and local boards,
- (3) union boards,
- (4) Calcutta Improvement Trust,

per annum in the province;

(ii) the principles upon which the distribution of the available funds is made to the above bodies; and

(iii) whether the resolution of Government of India in 1918 that these bodies should receive a certain portion of the cesses levied within their areas, is followed or taken into consideration?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** (i) The following figures have been compiled from the reports for the year 1927-28:—

- (1) Rs. 3,33,376.
- (2) Rs. 38,16,568.
- (3) Rs. 1,31,500.
- (4) Rs. 1,50,000.

(ii) It would be impossible within the scope of a reply to a question to deal adequately with the principles governing the distribution of grants to the various types of local body, but the ultimate criterion is that of local needs in relation to local resources and local efforts. Other demands on Provincial Revenues and the financial position of the Province have also to be considered.

(iii) There is no cess in municipal areas. All cesses less cost of collections are made over to district boards. Union boards are constituted under the Bengal Village Self-Government Act, 1919, and were not in existence when the resolution of the Government of India in 1918 was published. Section 45 of the Bengal Village Self-Government Act of 1919 provides for grants-in-aid by district boards to union boards.

**Babu SANAT KUMAR RAY CHAUDHURI:** Was the resolution of the Government of India of 1918 intended to apply to village panchayets now occupied by newly constituted union boards?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** The answer to the first part is in the affirmative and that to the second part in the negative.

#### Appointment of Honorary Magistrates from depressed classes.

**17. Rai Sahib REBATI MOHAN SARKER:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the present number of Honorary Magistrates recruited from the depressed classes in Bengal?

(b) Are the Government considering the desirability of recruiting more Honorary Magistrates from the depressed classes?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** (a) Government have no information.

(b) There is no objection to appointing Honorary Magistrates from the depressed classes if by their education, public spirit and character they are found to be suitable.

#### Principalship of Bethune College.

**18. Mr. SYAMAPROBAD MOOKERJEE:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Education Department aware that a resolution moved by Mr. J. N. Basu in the Bengal Legislative Council on the 13th March, 1924, was passed urging the Government to consider the desirability of appointing an Indian lady as Principal of the Bethune College?

- (b) Is it a fact that Miss G. M. Wright, permanent Principal of the Bethune College, has retired from service?
- (c) Is it a fact that Mrs. Rajkumari Das is acting as Principal of the College?
- (d) Are the Government considering the desirability of confirming Mrs. Rajkumari Das as permanent Principal of the College?

**The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McALPIN:** (a) Yes.

- (b) Yes.
- (c) Yes.

(d) The Principalship of the Bethune College is a special post in the Indian Educational Service, and according to the orders of the Secretary of State for India no appointment to the Indian Educational Service can be made at present. The Secretary of State has authorised the local Government to create a higher Provincial Educational Service in lieu of the Indian Educational Service, and the question of the creation of such a service is under the consideration of Government. When the proposed new service is created it will be possible to take up the question of the desirability of appointing Mrs. R. Das substantively.

**Mr. SYAMAPROSAD MOOKERJEE:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether it is proposed to appoint a European lady as Principal of the Bethune College?

**The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McALPIN:** No, I have not heard of the proposal.

**Mr. SYAMAPROSAD MOOKERJEE:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state when a permanent Principal is going to be appointed?

**The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McALPIN:** The question of permanence is a technical question.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** I cannot follow you.

**The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McALPIN:** It is a technical question connected with the formation of the new educational services. When the higher Provincial Educational Service is created the technicality will be removed.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to explain to the House as to what his idea is about technical question?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** That is no question.

**Construction of Pirojpur Government School building.**

**19. Rai SATYENDRA NATH ROY CHOUDHURI Bahadur:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

- (i) when allotment for the construction of Pirojpur (Bakarganj) Government School building will be made; and
- (ii) when the construction is likely to begin?

**The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McALPIN:** (i) It cannot be stated definitely when the necessary funds may become available for allotment.

(ii) The construction of the building depends on the allotment of the necessary funds.

**District Excise officers.**

**20. Dr. MOHINI MOHAN DAS:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Agriculture and Industries (Excise) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that while the District Excise officers are on tour, the licensees, whose shops they inspect, are compelled to secure their fooding and all other necessaries?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken in the matter?

(c) If no action has been taken, are the Government considering the desirability of holding public inquiry into the matter?

**MEMBER in charge of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (EXCISE) DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McAlpin):**

(a) Officers of the Excise Department are prohibited from accepting anything whatsoever from Excise licensees, and departmental proceedings are taken against any officer who is detected doing so.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Allotment of times for the disposal of the demands for grants.**

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** I have to remind the members that under the orders of His Excellency the following are the times allotted for the disposal of the several demands for grants under the major heads:—

Head.	Hour.	Minutes.
32.—Medical	... 1	15
34.—Agriculture	... 0	25
41.—Civil Works	... 0	15

## DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

## 32.—Medical.

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 50,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "32.—Medical" for grant to the Calcutta Hospital Nurses' Institution.

This, Sir, is a non-recurring grant to enable the Nurses' Institution to tide over their immediate financial difficulties. It appears that in the year 1928 their deficit amounted to over Rs. 50,000. It also appears that during the last three years the institution has been working at a deficit, and the total amount of the deficit for the last three years is about Rs. 70,000. The institution has almost reached the limit of its overdrawing powers from the bank; and, unless immediate help be forthcoming, the institution will be placed in an extremely difficult position.

As a result of its financial position the institution had to stop recruiting from April last. The effect of this stoppage has been that the nurses in the Medical College Hospital are being overworked. Some of the probationers on account of overwork have left their service and nursing in the hospital is suffering. In the interest of the hospitals of Calcutta it is of the utmost importance to give this timely relief to the Nurses' Institution.

With these words, Sir, I move the demand that stands in my name.

**Babu BEJOY KRISHNA BOSE:** I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 50,000 under the head "32.—Medical" for grant to the Calcutta Hospital Nurses' Institution be reduced by Rs. 49,500.

It was only four months ago in March last that we fully discussed this subject in the House. The demand was then made for a lakh of rupees and there was considerable reluctance on the part of most of the members to support the Government proposal. A compromise was at last arrived at; and although there was not a definite promise but there was something like a promise made that efforts would be made to train Indian nurses. To-day no reason has been given by the Hon'ble Member why within these four months it has been found necessary to come forward with a further demand of Rs. 50,000 under that head again. The only reason given is that during the last three years the deficit of the institution amounted to Rs. 70,000. If that is so it was within the knowledge of the Hon'ble Member in charge in March last and why was it that he did not then make a demand

of one lakh and seventy thousand rupees. Why these demands are being made piecemeal I do not understand. If I remember aright the Hon'ble Member then stated that a large number of Indian ladies were not coming forward to take their training in nursing and that is the reason why Indian women could not be trained as nurses. In the course of the speech—if I remember aright—he invited the co-operation of my friends Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy and Dr. Kumud Sankar Ray to work out a scheme for the purpose of giving training to Indian nurses.

**Dr. KUMUD SANKAR RAY:** On a point of personal explanation. The Hon'ble Member referred to the scheme in his speech but since then I have heard nothing about it.

**Babu BEJOY KRISHNA BOSE:** I was about to say that. Before we vote for the supplementary demand I should like to know whether the Hon'ble Member had asked the help of the two eminent Doctors he named to formulate the scheme or any step has been taken to carry out the scheme if one is already prepared. I fear, Sir, that nothing has been done, that no attempt has been made to train Indian nurses and now we are told that because there is a deficit we should grant another Rs. 50,000. I am not much in touch with the Corporation now but I understand there was a hot discussion with regard to the Corporation grant to this institution and that a compromise was arrived at on a promise being made that some Indian women would be trained as nurses. If I am incorrect in my statement I hope the Corporation members who are also members of this Council will correct me.

My next point is this: Perhaps it would be said that it is difficult to train Indian women as nurses; they have not got much English education. I do not know whether this is a sufficient reason why Indian women could not be trained as nurses. Certainly they can be trained even if they are not educated in English—they can be trained in Bengali, instructions as to the names of medicines, in the use of instruments can be given in Bengali. It was said by Mr. Clarke that there are over 70,000 Indian patients in the hospitals, while the number of European patients was only 8,000 or 9,000. If this is so there is all the more reason why Indian women should be trained as nurses for the purpose of attending to these Indian patients. I do not know whether Government has ever thought that not only women but men should also be trained in the art of nursing. I understand that this is being done in the Carmichael Medical College.

It is said that these nurses are trained in this institution for the purpose of acting as nurses in the different hospitals in Calcutta but I believe that nurses who are trained in these institutions also enjoy the privilege of private practice and some of them are not even in

touch with any of the hospitals. If you look up Telephone Guide you will find there are centres where these European nurses trained in this institute may be found. We find a Nurses' Bureau at 116, Elliott Road. There is another nurses centre at 36, Chowringhee, and there are other centres also. I should like to know whether these nurses have been trained in this institute or not before we vote for this demand. I know that these nurses demand very high fees for attending patients and I do not know whether provincial revenues ought to be charged for the purposes of training of these nurses in order that they may practice as private nurses charging high fees. My submission is that until a scheme is made out to train Indian women as nurses, provincial revenue ought not to be charged in this manner for the Hospital Nurses' Institute.

4 p.m.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** It will save quite a lot of time if we have one discussion on all the three motions.

The following motion standing in the name of Srijut Taraknath Mukerjea was called but not moved:—

"That the demand of Rs. 50,000 under the head '32.—Medical' for grant to the Calcutta Hospital Nurses' Institution be reduced by Re. 1 (to open a discussion to say that this grant is too much and also to say that while very poor grants have been made to the more important medical works so much have been granted to the Calcutta Hospital Nurses' Institution)."

**Babu MANMATHA NATH ROY:** I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 50,000 under the head "32.—Medical" for grant to the Calcutta Hospital Nurses' Institution be reduced by Re. 1.

This token cut of Re. 1 is meant to raise a debate on the question of employment of and facilities for Indian nurses—a subject which has already been touched upon by my learned friend Mr. B. K. Bose, the mover of the motion for reduction. In March last, as has been mentioned by Mr. B. K. Bose, the Hon'ble Sir P. C. Mitter assured this House, when this House voted a demand of Rs. 1 lakh for the same purpose, that he would formulate a scheme for the training of an adequate number of Indian nurses. It appears that in four months the Institute needs Rs. 50,000 more. It may be known to the members of this House that the Calcutta Hospital Nurses' Institute was established about 70 years ago for the purpose of training, recruiting and supplying the *entire* nursing staff to certain hospitals in Calcutta and the more important of these hospitals are the Presidency General Hospital and the Medical College Hospital. One essential point to be noted is that this Institute enjoys a monopoly in the matter of supply of nurses to these hospitals. I do not deny that the Nurses'

Institute which was started 70 years ago had done splendid work, especially at a time when there was no other institution for training nurses in this country and no Indian ladies could be available for the purpose; but though the state of things has now changed, the privilege of serving as nurses in these hospitals has remained a privilege for a few and the Indian ladies are denied the privilege of being trained in this Institute. I must say that I do not raise any racial question and I hate raising racial questions while discussing any subject in this House. The question which I raise is a question purely of principle.

In the hospitals served by this Institute, about one lakh of indoor and outdoor patients are treated; of these 14,000 are Europeans and Anglo-Indians and 86,000 are Indians. I do not grudge our Anglo-Indian and European friends being nursed by their own people but the question which arises is, whether the Anglo-Indian nursing staff is at all suitable for the 86,000 Indian patients. Of course there is the question of expense; it cannot be denied that Indian nurses may be had at certainly much less cost. I do not press that point at present but the more important point now is whether the Anglo-Indian nurses are at all suitable for the purpose of Indian patients. It cannot be denied that our Anglo-Indian nurses do not understand the language of the Indian patients; they do not know the manners and customs of these Indian patients and they are not in a position to appreciate the small details which are essential to a successful relationship of the patient and the nurse. It is said and it is often urged that the Indian nurses of the right type are not available. I deny that charge and say that it cannot be true. Dr. Bidhan Ch. Roy will be able to testify that he is the head of an institution which has trained nurses purely from the *bhadralok* class and so also Dr. Kumud Sankar Roy can testify to the successful working of the Chittaranjan Hospital by Indian nurses. It cannot be true to say that the Institution has failed to secure the right type of Indian ladies suitable for nursing. The Institute in its report in 1927 said, and there the truth came out, that they were not prepared to train Indian nurses without additional grants from the Government and the Corporation. That is the real reason, that is the truth, and it is a mere camouflage to say that the right type of Indian nurses are not available. The conclusion seems to me to be this: that the Institute has either no inclination to secure the proper type of Indian ladies or it does not enjoy the confidence of the Indian public. In either case, I would ask the Institute to give up this monopoly of supplying nurses. When Indian nurses have proved successful such a monopoly is wholly unjustified. Dr. Bidhan Ch. Roy and Dr. Kumud Sankar Roy are there and there are various others who are in a position to train Indian nurses for these hospitals. If the Institute has failed in its duty I would ask the Government to employ some other means for providing

an adequate number of Indian nurses for these hospitals. It was only the other day I found that this Institute at the instance of the Calcutta Corporation offered to train four Indian nurses. I ask this House whether this is a number sufficient for the purpose or in any way near it. I emphatically repudiate the suggestion that an adequate number of suitable Indian nurses are not available or that they have been found wanting.

**Mr. W. L. TRAVERS:** During the March session we had what I thought a very instructive debate upon the subject which is now before the Council. It was my thought towards the conclusion of that debate that we had come to some sort of rough arrangement between this side of the House and the other in regard to this great and important subject of nursing. There is a desire, a perfectly natural and a perfectly reasonable desire, amongst Bengalis that more girls of their community should be taught and instructed in the great task of nursing and that more of them should adopt that form of livelihood. Up to the present the Calcutta Nurses Institute although they have tried have not been successful in getting either the right class or the right type of Indian girls for that teaching. On the other hand it was clearly expressed in the budget debate that certain eminent Indian doctors who are also social reformers had been successful. I said then and I say now with the greatest emphasis that the British group here—and more than the British group all Britishers in Calcutta—and all of them have the greatest sympathy with the desire and are willing to push forward the scheme in any way which is open to them. It seems to me now that we have got to what may be stated to be a stumbling block. What is required is a scheme or programme and I hope and trust that before the next budget comes up a scheme or programme for the training of Indian nurses will have been prepared. I am very sorry that I myself do not live in Calcutta or else I would be glad to work for this admirable object. Meanwhile, as I say let us hope that by next March when we discuss the budget we shall have a scheme before us and we, on this side of the House, will be able to redeem with the greatest pleasure the pledge that we have made to support this proposal for a grant from Government.

But meanwhile there is the question of this Nursing Institution itself. There is no doubt apparently that it is so far as its finance is concerned in a very bad way. For four years there was a deficit and that deficit had gradually increased until there is a net deficit of Rs. 50,000 over and beyond the amount that it has received from Government. As the position is at present though more Indian nurses are being trained it seems to me that the only society for the moment to supply nurses to the hospitals is the Calcutta Nurses' Institution and that for the present it is our duty and our job to support that

institution (mind we Britishers do our best to help the institution by voluntary subscriptions as well). But as I say let us hope that next March there will be either a grant to a Branch of the Calcutta Nursing Institution to deal with Indian nurses or to a sister organisation and the mover of this resolution will find that we on this side will, as I say, carry out our pledge of support to the letter. In the meantime I ask this House to vote this grant without very much more debate.

**Babu SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** As one connected with the civic administration of this great city I feel reluctant to oppose a grant of this character, but I feel bound to oppose this particular motion for grant. I support the amendment moved by my friend Mr. B. K. Bose. This question of grant to the Calcutta Hospital Nurses' Institution is not new either to this House or to the other body—I mean, the Corporation of Calcutta. In meetings of the Calcutta Corporation this question has been raised again and again and it has been decided that we should not vote the full grant unless and until we can come to some sort of a compromise with the Hospital Nurses' Institution and enforce the considered decision of the Indian people of the city, viz., that there should be a really decent number of trained Indian nurses available for nursing the Indian patients of the city.

4.15 p.m.

We have been told times without number whenever these motions come up before public bodies that when the next step is taken, provision for Indian nurses will be made; but that step never comes, and the old, old plea is put forward repeatedly that the right class of Indian nurses is not available. Sir, I say that the old, old plea of the right class of Indian nurses not being available, has been invariably trotted out in this city for many years, and it is time that some other new plea had been found out. The Indian Civil Service was at one time a British monopoly, the recruitment to it was entirely British, but times have changed and Indians are now recruited as members of that Service on the soil of India. Now do the nursing staff of the Calcutta Medical College Hospital require such a rare and high type of training, that recruits cannot be had from among Indian ladies? Times without number we have been told that Indian ladies cannot be had. I refuse to believe it. I call it a libel on the mothers and sisters of our race. Am I to believe that ladies of India who have been well-known from the ancient ages for their great learning and inclination towards the sacred work of nursing are unfit to work as hospital nurses in Calcutta? Those hospitals in Calcutta where nursing is not controlled by this trade union will bear ample testimony to the fact that Indian nurses of the best type are available there. Connected as I have been with the Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital

for a number of years as a member of the governing body I bear testimony to the fact that Indian nurses of the best type are available in this city. I have it on the testimony of Colonel Denham-White that he is perfectly satisfied with the type of ladies he gets there for training. Yet it is said that Indian nurses of the right type do not come forward for training. I would suggest to the Hon'ble Member who has made this demand that, before this supplementary grant is pressed before this House, he ought to keep back this present motion for the time being and bring it forward after a lapse of four months after a decent advance has been made in the framing of a scheme for the training of Indian nurses.

With regard to the plea about which we have heard again and again on the floor of this House as well as outside that if this supplementary grant is passed this year, next time we come up we shall put forward something tangible for the Indian nurses. But the time has come now for us to assume a determined attitude and refuse this grant this year and leave it to the Government and their European friends to prepare a scheme for the immediate training of Indian nurses.

This supplementary demand is made on the ground that a deficit has taken place. May we know who exercises the requisite check or supervision over the expenditure incurred by this Institution? There is no check or control exercised even by the Government over its expenditure. As in the medical service, this Institution should be provincialised so that the representatives of people may have some sort of control over its expenditure through the Government. I know the expenses incurred there are on a large scale. I concede that the nurses, having regard to the special nature of their occupation, require some extra comforts, some additional amenities. I quite see that, but at the same time I do say that the members of this House ought to have some opportunity of control or check over the expenditure of the Institution. If this grant has got to be made, they must take some representatives from this House on their committee. So far as this House is concerned, can it exercise the slightest control over the expenditure incurred there? Still we are asked time and again to pass supplementary grants to meet deficits for the Hospital Nurses' Institution. I think the whole principle is intrinsically wrong. Before supplementary grant is passed, we want to have a clear and definite assurance that Government will consider all these points fully and satisfy the House that they will act according to the wishes of the Indian representatives of the people in this House.

**Mr. D. J. COHEN:** The arguments advanced by some members of this House show that they are really against the Government who have not made provision for the training of Indian nurses. The members of Calcutta Hospital Nurses' Institution are appointed by Government

and therefore the Institute is not responsible for the fact that only two Corporation representatives are included on the governing body. The Institution has always agreed to train Indian nurses; the Corporation asked them to train four Indian nurses as a start and only three weeks ago they had sanctioned the furniture grant to enable them to begin this work; the arrangement however is that the Indian nurses must be paid on the same scale as European nurses. Government, I understand, have a scheme in hand for training cheaper Indian nurses. Whether that scheme be sanctioned or not is a different matter. I may only tell the House how serious the situation is with which the Calcutta Hospital Nurses' Institution is faced owing to lack of funds. It has had to stop recruiting, because if they were to continue recruiting, it means incurring an obligation to train nurses for a definite period of years, and they do not know their position. The Institution is suffering now from a deficit of Rs. 50,000. Let me give you the figures for the last few years to show how the deficit has grown up. The deficit was in—

	Rs.
1925	... 2,441
1926	... 8,030
1927	... 10,351
1928	... 50,202

So far as the increase in annual expenditure is concerned, it is due really to expansion. Expenditure had also to be incurred to provide additional nurses for the new Eye Hospital and they will shortly be called upon to provide additional nurses for the Eden Hospital. All this requires money, and unless this House is prepared to pass this amount, the work can not possibly go on. The Principal of the Medical College will be forced to close down wards to be able to meet the case. Already within three months, recruiting having been stopped, they have got about 20 nurses less than the number they had. They have always had the minimum number for the Medical College Hospital and the position now is that they require another 20 nurses to bring up the strength to the minimum number. The Principal told me only yesterday in answer to my query, that unless recruiting began at once, grant or no grant, he will be under the painful necessity of closing down wards at once.

Under these circumstances I trust the other side of the House will see their way to withdraw their opposition.

So far as the question of providing Indian nurses is concerned, as I have said, a scheme is now in the hands of Government for consideration and the Hospital Nurses' Institution has always been ready to undertake the task of training nurses provided they get the right type of recruits. The reason for that is obvious. The lecturers being Europeans, the nurses under training under them will have to have a

certain standard of education. My friend Babu Bejoy Krishna Bose has told us that we may be able to train nurses who are not sufficiently educated or at all educated. I do not think they will have the slightest objection if another sister organisation will undertake the task of training nurses who are not sufficiently educated or who have no education. I hope the House will pass the demand.

[At 4.30 p.m. the Council was adjourned and it re-assembled at 4.40 p.m.]

**Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY:** The demand which has been laid before this House by my friend the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter is backed by a statement made therein, namely, that the Calcutta Hospital Nurses' Institution on their present scale of expenditure is faced with a deficit. Does that indicate that the Hon'ble Member has some diffidence in his own mind as to whether that scale is one which he considers to be extravagant? That is my first question.

My next question, and that is more important, is this: When the demand for a grant was made in March last, there was a significant sentence in the speech of Sir Provash Chunder Mitter, in which he said that if the Calcutta Hospital Nurses' Institution were to do the work costing Rs. 3½ lakhs per annum, by paying one lakh per annum why not get their services.

4.45 p.m.

I find, Sir, that the actual expenditure on the Medical College group of hospitals and the Presidency General Hospital is Rs. 3,16,000. If the Hospital Nurses' Institute is going to give us value for Rs. 3,50,000 per annum, then there should be a credit balance of the amount of Rs. 34,000.

There is another point, which naturally arises in this connection. In this case a grant of Rs. 1,00,000 was made in March last on the basis of a statement which I have just read out. What has happened since then that the Institute should have again come forward with a demand for Rs. 50,000. The Hon'ble Member says that the Association is faced with a deficit. May I know when the deficit was discovered? If they knew about it in March last why was it not mentioned then? Why was a misstatement made?

There is another question which I want to put forward before the members of the Council. The Association has, in the words of the Hon'ble Member, given a threat, and that threat has been repeated by Mr. Cohen. Mr. Cohen has said that this Rs. 50,000 is necessary, because of the expansion of the Nursing Department of the Medical College group of hospitals. Sir P. C. Mitter said that this is a non-recurring grant. Now, which of the two statements are we to believe? If this deficit is now met by a non-recurring grant, this is sure to come back to us in the form of a demand for a recurring grant. If the

deficit was not discovered in March last, did the Government departments look into the accounts of the Institute to find out how this deficit occurred? I am connected with several institutions and one of them is a girls' school. It has got a property of its own, but it is down with a debt of Rs. 1,30,000. I have been pleading here before successive Members and Secretaries on behalf of this institute and I am told that I have got to wait. This institution has no money to fall back upon, but I would remind the members of this House that the Calcutta Nurses' Institute, to which this non-recurring grant of Rs. 50,000 is proposed to be given to meet a deficit, has got invested in the bank an amount of Rs. 1,49,600 according to the report of 1927. I ask the Hon'ble Member, if this is a non-recurring grant to meet a deficit, then why is this deficit not met out of this investment? Why do not the Government wait for four months and then decide whether it is necessary to expand the nursing department of the Medical College and that a recurring grant is necessary for the purpose, and then ask for something more next year. Well, Sir, I knew of a gentleman who used to earn a lot of money and kept his money in the bank and always pleaded poverty; saying "all my money is in the bank and I have no money to contribute towards anything."

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** May I, Sir, appeal to my friend through you to leave some time for me to reply. It is now five minutes past five and there is not much time left.

**Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY:** I am very sorry, it is the most crucial point. A great deal has been made of the threat that has been put forward by a member of the committee of the Hospital Nurses' Institute. Sir P. C. Mitter has said that this Rs. 50,000 is required to meet a deficit. I submit, why cannot they meet this deficit out of their investment and then come to Government afterwards for help. In the meantime we can see what Government do for training Indian nurses. We shall then know what recurring amount is required for the Calcutta Hospital Nurses' Institute, and then will be the time for Government to come forward either for a recurring or a non-recurring grant. I did not purposely refer to the fact that the Calcutta Hospital Nurses' Institute had not taken any steps to train Indian nurses, but there is one sentence in the speech of Sir P. C. Mitter to which I should like to refer. He said that good Indian women were not available to be trained by English women. I have said before and I again say that I have been connected with an institute in which training is given by men and women in Bengali and I had 7 or 8 of them examined by prominent medical men such as Dr. Kedar Nath Das, Dr. I. M. Bannerji and others, and I say that that portion of the argument is absolutely without foundation. But I want to pass on. The main argument I desire to press before the

members of this House is that this amount of deficit should be met out of the investment for the present and in the meantime Government might examine the financial position of the Institute.

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** Sir, it is desirable that I should clear the atmosphere of certain arguments of prejudice that have been placed before the House, raised by some members, who being present at the time of the last debate should have known better, and by others, who not being present at that time perhaps do not know all the facts; at least I proceed on the assumption that they do not know all the facts; and there are other members who are new to this House. For their enlightenment, may I read a portion of my remarks at the time of the budget discussion? This, I hope, will clear the atmosphere. At page 565 of the Proceedings of the 31st session of the Council you will find that I said this: "The suggestion put forward by Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy and Dr. Kumud Sankar Ray regarding the institution of a separate nursing service is worthy of serious consideration, and if our medical friends in this Council would place before the Surgeon-General definite proposals to this end, I am sure he will consider them with every sympathy, and that ultimately it would be possible to evolve a scheme for the training of Indian nurses. There is one practical difficulty, Sir. If you want to train Indian women in the profession of nursing through this institution, then they must have better education that is necessary for the mere purpose of nursing. They must be able to follow lectures in English, if you want them to be trained by English women. My point is that if you want to get Indian women trained by English women in the science and art of nursing, then it is absolutely necessary that the former should have sufficient knowledge of English to follow the lectures delivered in English for the purpose. I have never said that it is not possible to train Bengali or Indian women who have no knowledge of English or an indifferent knowledge of it, in the art of nursing: my point is that such training must be imparted by Indians." And instead of quoting further I may say that what I told the House was that if you want Indian nurses to be trained by English or Anglo-Indian instructors, then your Indian nurses must know sufficient English to follow the lectures. But I made it abundantly clear that it was quite possible to train Indian women in the art of nursing.

**Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY:** Why did you say that it is impossible to train Indian women—

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I did not interrupt you, Dr. Roy. You are taking away my limited time.

I referred to the fact that we in Government tried our best to get Indian nurses not only through the Surgeon-General, but through a distinguished Indian medical officer, Major J. C. De, and at page 563 of the

[5TH AUG.,

Proceedings, you will find that it was further pointed out that Mrs. P. K. Roy, Lady Bose and other distinguished Indian ladies were approached. It may be due to our own fault, and in approaching these Indian ladies, perhaps we did not approach the right sort of persons. It was for that reason, in order to get the thing done, I suggested that if Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy and Dr. Kumud Sankar Ray would do us the favour by placing a scheme before us, we would certainly consider that scheme and lose no time in accepting that scheme if we found it practicable. A scheme necessarily involves the possibilities of finding suitable candidates.

**Dr. KUMUD SANKAR RAY:** May I be allowed to explain—

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** I have often told you that unless a member who is in possession of the House yields, you cannot stop him to obtain a hearing.

**Dr. KUMUD SANKAR RAY:** May I not rise on a point of personal explanation?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** You may do that afterwards.

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** We have not been idle. We have already framed certain rules; they are in a tentative form now. They have not yet been passed by Government and have not yet been finally passed by the department either. On certain points we have made a reference to Colonel Stewart. Members of the House, at any rate that portion of the House who have not made up their minds in advance, will realise that a scheme like this takes time. It is common knowledge that it is difficult to get suitable Indian ladies to take up the nursing profession. I am sure no Muhammadan ladies of respectable position will take to nursing. Take the case of the orthodox Hindu community. In spite of what some members of that community to my right may say, I can assert that the bulk of the women of that community will not take up the nursing profession. Now, Sir, even with the limited number of Indian ladies who are willing to earn their livelihood, the most popular thing is the teaching profession. As I explained to the House in March last, the teaching profession is certainly more attractive to Indian ladies than nursing. At any rate, rightly or wrongly, we, in spite of our education, do not get ladies to take up the nursing profession. Produce them, and I can assure the House that we shall not be found wanting in giving Bengali ladies the necessary training required. My friend on the left, Mr. Travers, has also assured us that you will have their support as well. My time is limited, and I can only reply to some of the points raised and not to all of them. Well, it has been said that the Nursing

Institute has threatened to close the service. Nothing of the kind, Sir. This Institute, which has been doing splendid work since a very long time, will be the last to hold out a threat.

5 p.m.

If they start recruiting now it means not only the immediate payment of next month's salary but of future salaries also. It means commitment for the future for a considerable time, and no responsible committee or responsible association would commit themselves to the future when they have no funds for the future. This disposes of the question of threat. For the last three months they could not recruit, not because they did not want to, but because they had no funds to pay the recruits if they continued in service, this Association has been working for the last 60 years for this end and they did not recruit because they could not pay, being in a position of great financial difficulty. This, Sir, answers a great deal of the criticisms of my friends on the right.

Now, what will happen if this grant be refused? I have already explained in my opening remarks that they have almost reached the limit of their overrawing power. If you stop this grant, then they cannot recruit, and if they cannot recruit, they cannot supply nurses to the same extent to the Medical College hospitals as they have done in the past, and the result will be perhaps an immediate closure of 125 beds. I explained the position fully and clearly in March last and I have also explained the position now and I may tell my friends to the right that I am as keen—and I may assure my friends as Mr. Travers has done—about the training of Bengali nurses as Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy and his friends are. Can we train Indian nurses in a month's time or even in three months' time? What is to happen in the meantime? There are a large number of Indian patients in the Medical College hospitals—we have been told that there are about 18,000—and, if before Indian nurses can be trained, this body is to close down for want of funds it will be the Indian patients who will suffer.

As I have said in March last and I repeat it now—with that responsibility cast your vote. As we say, we in the Government are trying to do our best to train Indian nurses. Either trust us or if you do not trust us, produce your own schemes as I ask you to do, and if you do not, the remedy lies with you.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** I may remind you, Sir Provash, that you have to move another demand and that must be done within the specified time.

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** Yes, Sir, I shall be brief. It has been suggested that the present demand is a mere pretext to get a recurring grant. Nothing of the kind. I admit

that it may be necessary to increase the recurring grant but so far as I have been able to see now, it may be very much less. This is only a non-recurring grant, and whatever the recurring grant may be, that is still under the consideration of Government and will come before the Council but I hope it will be much less than Rs. 50,000.

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 1,50,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "32.—Medical" for grant to the Jatiya Ayurbijnan Parishad, Calcutta.

A question was put to me in the lobby as to whether this is a Kaviraji institution. This is not a Kaviraji institution, Sir, but is for training in western science. The nature of the demand has been explained in the short note circulated and in view of the fact that there is no time I need not dwell on the matter at length.

**Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Member kindly explain—

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** Dr. Roy, the guillotine must fall at 5-5 p.m.

**Dr. KUMUD SANKAR RAY:** I was assured, Mr. President, that I would be allowed to put a few questions to the Hon'ble Member—

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** Please resume your seat, the time-limit has been reached.

The following motion of Babu Bejoy Krishna Bose was then put and lost:—

"That the demand of Rs. 50,000 under the head '32.—Medical' for grant to the Calcutta Hospital Nurses' Institution be reduced by Rs. 49,500."

The motion that the demand of Rs. 50,000 under the head "32.—Medical" for grant to the Calcutta Hospital Nurses' Institution be reduced by Re. 1 (to raise a debate on the question of facilities to, and employment of, Bengali nurses) was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

#### AYES.

Ahmed, Maulvi Shamsuddin.  
 Ali, Maulvi Hassan.  
 Bagchi, Babu Romeo Chandra.  
 Banerjee, Dr. Pramathanath.  
 Banerjee, Babu Promotha Nath.  
 Basuji, Mr. P.  
 Banerjee, Babu Jitendra Lal.  
 Basu, Babu Santosh Kumar.

Bose, Babu Bejoy Krishna.  
 Bose, Mr. Subhas Chandra.  
 Chakrabarty, Babu Jatinrao Nath.  
 Chakravarti, Babu Jagindra Chandra.  
 Chatterjee, Srijet Bijay Kumar.  
 Chatterji, Babu Amarendra Nath.  
 Choudhuri, Maulvi Achrefuddin.  
 Chowdhury, Maulvi Abdul Ghani.

Das, Dr. Mahini Mohan.  
 Das Gupta, Dr. J. M.  
 Dutt, Babu Barai Kumar.  
 Ganguli, Babu Pratul Chandra.  
 Ghosh, Babu Amarendra Nath.  
 Gupta, Mr. Jagesh Chandra.  
 Hakim, Maulvi Abdul.  
 Hasbony, Maulvi Syed Jalaluddin.  
 Hoque, Kazi Emdadul.  
 Mazumdar, Mr. Birendranath.  
 Mitter, Babu Rishikesh.  
 Mitra, Babu Surendra Mohan.  
 Mukherjee, Mr. Syamaprasad.  
 Mukherjee, Srijut Taraknath.  
 Nag, Babu Suk Lal.  
 Nasir, Babu Hom Chandra.  
 Pain, Babu Baroda Prasanna.  
 Pati Choudhuri, Mr. Ranjit.  
 Rahman, Maulvi Azizur.

Ray, Dr. Kumud Sankar.  
 Ray, Srijut Radha Govinda.  
 Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Sonat Kumar.  
 Roy, Babu Manmatha Nath.  
 Roy, Dr. Bidhan Chandra.  
 Roy, Mr. D. M.  
 Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar.  
 Roy, Mr. Sadhan Chandra.  
 Roy Choudhuri, Babu Hira Chandra.  
 Roy Choudhuri, Rai Bahadur Satyendra  
 Nath.  
 Saydullah, Maulvi Muhammad.  
 Samad, Maulvi Abdus.  
 Barker, Babu Naliniranjan.  
 Sen Gupta, Mr. J. M.  
 Singh, Srijut Taj Bahadur.  
 Tarkathirtha, Kaviraj Biswananda, Pundit  
 Bhushan.

## NOES.

Ali, Mr. Altaf.  
 Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan.  
 Basiruddin, Maulvi Mohammed.  
 Blair, Mr. J. R.  
 Cassella, Mr. A.  
 Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Alimuz-  
 zaman.  
 Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Haikur  
 Rahman.  
 Choudhury, Maulvi Nural Abeer.  
 Chowdhury, Haji Badi Ahmed.  
 Cohen, Mr. D. J.  
 Colman, Mr. E. R.  
 Dain, Mr. G. R.  
 Dash, Mr. A. J.  
 Eason, Mr. G. A.  
 Fazilullah, Maulvi Muhammad.  
 Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.  
 Ghosh, Mr. M. C.  
 Ghumanvi, the Hon'ble Alhadji Sir Abdol-  
 kerim.  
 Ghohri, Mr. R. N.  
 Goonah, Rai Bahadur Badridas.  
 Guha, Mr. P. N.  
 Gurnor, Mr. G. W.  
 Habibullah, Nawab Khanaja.  
 Haque, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Azizel.  
 Hegi, Mr. G. P.  
 Hopkins, Mr. W. S.  
 Hussain Nawab Musarruf, Khan Bahadur.  
 Hussain, Maulvi Mohammed.  
 Hus, Khan Sahib Maulvi Sadiq.  
 Hus, Mr. A. K. Fazlul.  
 Hussain, Maulvi Latafat.  
 Inayat, Mr. J.  
 Jenkins, Dr. W. A.  
 Karim, Maulvi Abdul.  
 Kasem, Maulvi Abdul.

Khan, Khan Sahib Maulvi Muazzam Ali.  
 Khan, Maulvi Tamizuddin.  
 Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.  
 Lal Muhammad, Haji.  
 Lamb, Mr. T.  
 Law, Mr. Surendra Nath.  
 Leslie, Mr. M.  
 Mailik, Mr. Mukunda Behari.  
 McAlpin, the Hon'ble Mr. M. C.  
 McCluskie, Mr. E. T.  
 Mitter, the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder.  
 Noberty, The Hon'ble Mr. A. N.  
 Nag, Reverend B. A.  
 Nazimuddin, Mr. Khwaja.  
 Ormond, Mr. E. C.  
 Philip, Mr. J. V.  
 Rahman, Mr. A. F.  
 Rahman, Mr. A. F. M. Abdur-  
 Ray, Kumar Shih Shokharezwar.  
 Ray Chaudhuri, Mr. K. C.  
 Rose, Mr. G. F.  
 Roy, Mr. Bijoy Prasad Singh.  
 Roy, Mr. Sarat Kumar.  
 Rushforth, Mr. F. V.  
 Barker, Sir Jadunath.  
 Barker, Rai Sahib Robati Mohan.  
 Shah, Maulvi Abdul Hamid.  
 Skinner, Mr. S. A.  
 Simha, Raja Bahadur Bhupendra  
 Narayan, of Nachipur.  
 Solaiman, Maulvi Muhammad.  
 Stapleton, Mr. H. E.  
 Subewardy, Mr. H. S.  
 Tata, Major General Godfrey.  
 Thompson, Mr. W. H.  
 Trevor, Mr. W. L.  
 Twynam, Mr. H. J.

The Ayes being 51 and the Noes 71 the motion was lost.

6-15 p.m.

The motion that a sum of Rs. 50,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "32.—Medical" for grant to the Calcutta Hospital Nurses' Institution was then put and agreed to.

The motion that a sum of Rs. 1,50,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "32.—Medical" for grant to the Jatiya Ayurbijnan Parishad, Calcutta, was then put and agreed to.

#### 34.—Agriculture.

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** On the recommendations of His Excellency the Governor, I move that a sum of Rs. 30,498 be granted for expenditure under the head "34—Agriculture" for the appointment of 46 additional auditors of co-operative societies and their peons.

Sir, from the statement of the Legislative Department the hon'ble members of this House are aware that this money is wanted for 46 auditors. In June, 1917, the number of societies stood at 13,601. At the rate of one auditor for 100 societies, the number of auditors required is 136; the existing number is 110. Therefore, 26 more are needed. The other societies which have existed for less than 18 months number 2,682, thus 27 auditors are needed. The existing number is 10 and therefore 17 more are now required.

Then there are some other societies which number 401 and at the rate of one auditor for 75 societies the total number required is six; the existing number of auditors is three, therefore three more are needed. Altogether the number of auditors required is 46. The facts are well known to most members of the House. The importance of auditing cannot be overemphasised. The growth of societies has been very rapid and the present proposal is only to meet the situation. As regards the future, the Department is endeavouring to arrange for an annual increase of staff to cope with the increase in the number of societies so that it will bring up the staff to necessary requirements.

The following motion was called but not moved:—

**Babu MANMATHA NATH ROY:** "That the demand of Rs. 30,498 under the head '34.—Agriculture' for appointment of 46 additional auditors of co-operative societies and their peons be reduced by Re. 1 (to raise a debate on the question of development of co-operative societies)."

**Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE:** Sir, may I, with your permission, speak in support of the proposal which has just been moved?

I should like to offer a few innocent general remarks on the subject. Sir, for the last few years, Government has been realising audit fees from the co-operative societies and has been quietly pocketing the money thus raised. It is a fee which is levied for auditing the accounts of credit societies; but the money realized is not spent upon its ostensible or legitimate object, it goes into the general revenues of the province. If such a thing had been done by a private person, and not by a high and mighty body like the Government, it would have been called misappropriation of public funds. And my question to the Hon'ble Member is: Is he going to disgorge the money that has been pocketed unjustly, illegally and unlawfully from the co-operative societies?

The motion of the Hon'ble Alhadj Sir Abdelkerim Ghuznavi was then put and agreed to.

#### 41.—Civil Works.

**The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McALPIN:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move that a sum of Rs. 84,366 be granted for expenditure under the head " 41.—Civil Works " for the Barisal Medical School.

Sir, this has been explained in the paper which has been sent round and it is really a matter for the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter to deal with, if necessary.

The motion was put and agreed to.

#### GOVERNMENT BILLS.

##### The Bengal Children (Amendment) Bill, 1929.

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** I beg to introduce a Bill further to amend the Bengal Children Act, 1922.

The Assistant Secretary then read the title of the Bill.

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** I beg to move that the Bengal Children (Amendment) Bill, 1929, be taken into consideration.

In the course of the Budget debate in March 1928 on the demands for grants, the administration of the Bengal Children Act was severely criticised by Mr. James. I went into the question and found that there was considerable force in his criticism. His arguments took the line that the Children Court was inefficiently run.

There is a Children Court in the House of Detention in Calcutta at which six Honorary Magistrates sit in rotation according to a roster and try cases arising in Calcutta. A Magistrate from Sealdah attends to try cases arising in the suburbs and there is a House of Detention at Howrah where children are kept who are to be put up before a Stipendiary Magistrate at Howrah, who has no particular qualifications or experience for trying cases under the Children Act or for dealing with juvenile offenders on lines which are now approved, that is to say, that the Court should not be like a Court, that the Children should be treated sympathetically and that everything possible should be done to prevent them from developing into criminals. The present Bill proposes so to amend the law as to make it possible to establish a single central Court in Calcutta or elsewhere to try youthful offenders from any local area which may be specified by the Local Government. The immediate intention of Government, if this Bill is passed into law, is to establish a Central Court in Calcutta for the trial of youthful offenders from Calcutta and the suburbs and certain thanas in the industrial areas of Howrah and 24-Parganas. It is our desire that the Court should be presided over by a Stipendiary Magistrate who will have experience of the lines on which such a Court should be run with the object that children should be reclaimed rather than punished. I hope that he will also be able to some extent to supervise the work of the probation officers. The system of probation has had a wonderfully good effect in England in reducing the number of children who are sent to reformatories or industrial schools. The children are placed under the supervision of sympathetic officers who see that they run straight. I do not think, Sir, that I need detain the Council any longer. This is the main object of the Bill and the remaining clauses are consequential. It has been necessary to legislate because of the difference between the powers of the Presidency Magistrate in Calcutta and the powers of the Magistrates in the suburbs and outside and it has also been necessary to provide that appeals shall lie in rather a different way from what is provided by the Code of Criminal Procedure.

**Babu BEJOY KRISHNA BOSE:** I have every sympathy with the provisions of this Bill but there are one or two informations which I want with regard to the amendments of section 37 as proposed in this Bill. In the first place we find that the Juvenile Court has been defined as a separate court established under section 37. Now section 37 provides that the Local Government may issue a notification for the purpose of establishing a court under section 4 of the present Act of 1922 for the trial of offences. I should like to know what is the idea of the Government on that point. Are these courts which are to be established by notifications temporary courts or permanent courts? It is not expected that there would be juvenile

offenders every day brought up before the court in order that the court may be fully engaged during the usual hours. It may be that in a week there would be a collection of juvenile offenders who may be brought up before the court in a single day and whose cases may be finished in the course of the day. If there is a Juvenile Court established permanently and presided over by a Stipendiary Magistrate I should like to know whether there would be enough work for that Magistrate to sit every day for the trial of juvenile cases.

5.30 p.m.

It is said that in the new section which is 37 A, that these children or young persons are to be detained "in the prescribed manner" in a place which is to be fixed by Government. We know that there are two or three houses of detention where they are detained. I find from the Statement of Objects and Reasons that these houses of detention are going to be abolished and, if so, where are these children to be kept from the time of their arrest by the police till the completion of their trial. I want to know certain details with regard to the prescribed manner and the rules under which they are to be detained. Before I vote on the Bill I should like to have some idea of what Government think about it.

**Babu SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** I accord my wholehearted support to the principle underlying this Bill, namely, the establishment of a Central Court of Stipendiary Magistrates. The hon'ble mover has made it quite clear that the idea is that there should be one Magistrate to preside over this Court so that he would be able to tackle the cases coming up before him with broadminded sympathy and not treat these children as so many criminals as Honorary Magistrates are apt to do. I have high regard for many of the Honorary Magistrates. But at the same time it must be admitted that these Honorary Magistrates are not trained in the way of dealing with these juvenile offenders with that amount of tact and sympathy as might be expected from a Magistrate who is entrusted with that special work. There is another very important aspect of the question which is required to be considered. If a permanent Magistrate is appointed, he will have unique opportunities of studying juvenile psychology so as to wean these children away from evil ways. The Magistrate will, I hope, make it his duty from day to day to study child psychology so that the community at large may ultimately be benefited by his experience. The idea of Stipendiary Magistrate would, therefore, be welcomed by the House.

In this connection I will ask the hon'ble mover to consider the question of recruiting Stipendiary Magistrates from the Bar. I do not for one moment suggest that those who are not in the Bar cannot

deal with these cases with the requisite tact and sympathy, but at the same time I submit it ought to be considered whether members of the Bar would not be better qualified to deal with these cases than Magistrates who are hardened in service.

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** I am glad to find that there is no opposition to this Bill. I have been asked one or two questions which I shall be glad to answer to the best of my ability. The first was whether this Court was to be temporary or permanent. By temporary I understand that my friend meant that it would sit when there was work and it would not sit when there was no work. That is correct, but we shall be able to find plenty of work for a Magistrate to do in Calcutta. There is no reason whatever why because he presides over a Children's Court he should not occupy his spare time or most of his time in working as a Presidency Magistrate.

The second question that I was asked was where would these children be kept. The present intention of Government is that they should be kept where they are kept now, that is the boys in the House of Detention which is part of the same building where the Court sits, whilst the girls would be sent as now to a place which is known as the Girls' Refuge. Both of these institutions are Government institutions. The object of detaining youthful offenders in such places during trial and after conviction is obvious: it is undesirable that they should be herded in a police-station or jail with criminals. Further, as regards keeping them after conviction it is not always possible to accommodate them immediately in a home or in an industrial school or a reformatory school. Some time is needed perhaps to inquire into their antecedents and find out what sort of a school they are best suited for and when that is done to find out the school which will take them.

The last point that was raised was the possible difficulty of finding a sympathetic Magistrate. I do not anticipate that there will be very much difficulty about that. There is considerable competition amongst Magistrates to be posted to Calcutta and I think if I want a Magistrate for the Children's Court I shall only have to let it be known that preference will be given to a gentleman who has made a study of child psychology and the literature on the subject of juvenile delinquency and I expect I shall get many applicants. In any case once they come they will be given to understand that they will certainly have to learn a great deal about that particular work.

As regards recruitment from the Bar, of course I cannot say anything definitely at the present moment and I need only mention that the Presidency Magistrates are either members of the Indian Civil Service or of the Bengal Civil Service or are recruited from the Bar.

There is no hard and fast rule on the subject and the Magistrate of the Children's Court will be appointed in the ordinary way. I cannot say for certain how he will be recruited and I think there will probably be some people who have a certain amount of experience to begin with, but this is a matter which must be left over for the present as I cannot give a definite answer during this debate.

The motion that the Bengal Children (Amendment) Bill, 1929, be taken into consideration was then put and agreed to.

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** I beg to move that the Bengal Children (Amendment) Bill, 1929, be passed. I do not think I need add anything to what has gone before.

The motion was put and agreed to.

#### **The Bengal (Rural) Primary Education Bill, 1929.**

**The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McALPIN:** I beg to introduce a Bill to provide for the extension of primary education in rural areas in Bengal.

The Secretary then read the title of the Bill.

**The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McALPIN:** Sir, I beg to move that the said Bill be taken into consideration.

This Bill has been a long time under consideration and is now in the opinion of Government ready for the final consideration of this Council. As the Council must be aware this is the result of much inquiry and deliberation. Its forerunner is possibly Babu Surendra Nath Ray's Primary Education Bill passed for municipalities in the year 1919. This was followed by Mr. West's survey of education in the same year. In 1921 Mr. Evan Biss wrote two most voluminous reports on the same subject of primary education but it was not till the end of 1925 that a determined effort was made to do something. A rough draft of the Bill was then framed and this was considered at various public Divisional conferences and at some of these conferences, as many of you are probably aware, Mr. Lindsay, who took a great interest in the subject, was present. This was followed by a resolution in the year 1926 inviting public opinion upon the subject. In the light of the opinion received the original Bill was modified, redrafted and circulated for opinion in the year 1927 and last year it was again modified and introduced into the Council and referred to a Select Committee. The Select Committee was a large and representative one under the chairmanship of Nawab Musharaff Hussain, and by arrangement with the House they had almost a free hand to do what they liked with it. Their Bill was ultimately published but unfortunately

owing to the dissolution of the last Council it could not be taken into consideration by it. We have made 5 or 6 changes in the Bill of the Select Committee on behalf of Government. I have, therefore, introduced the Bill as drafted by the Select Committee with a few modifications which Government have thought necessary.

I now turn to the contents of the Bill and in dealing with these contents I shall refer mainly to the changes made by Government in the Bill as amended by the Select Committee.

Chapter II deals with an Advisory Body called the Central Primary Education Committee. This committee is a suggestion of the Select Committee; it was not in the original Bill as that Bill was referred to the Select Committee. We have accepted what they proposed except one item. They proposed that this Central Committee should be consulted on everything.

5-45 p.m.

That would obviously mean a very serious clog in the administration and would make it almost unworkable. It cannot be possible to refer every detail to a Committee. We have, therefore, instead of this inserted a provision making consultation optional, but compulsory in a few important cases such as the framing of rules. The curricula and standards of work would thus come under its purview. Chapter III deals with District School Board, which will be the local authority controlling primary education. We have accepted the constitution proposed by the Select Committee which appears to work out quite well, but have added to it, for rather obvious reasons, subdivisional magistrates. Then we have omitted a provision made by the Select Committee—rather a complicated provision—that the president or the vice-president, after the expiration of eight years, should be a member of the community which forms the majority of the population of the district. For one thing we think it unnecessary and for another I think this is a matter which should be dealt with by convention rather than by law.

Chapter III contains the ordinary sections regarding the procedure of the Boards. In section 16 the Select Committee have made provision for the inspection of primary schools by apparently their own inspectors. This provision has been changed, for it is the opinion of Government that they should be responsible for seeing that all schools in the province are kept up to the required standards, and, consequently, or incidentally, the cost of the inspectorate should be borne by Government, as at present. Section 23 deals with the duties of the Board. We have adopted an important modification made by the Select Committee which throws the cost of the constitution and maintenance of training schools for teachers on Government. We have

not, however, been able to accept the modification that the cost of the audit of the District School Board should be borne by Government.

Chapter IV deals with the education taxation. This is a matter which has been thoroughly considered, and I need at this stage only draw attention to two remarks regarding the proposed education cess. The Indian Taxation Enquiry Committee stated in paragraph 439 of their report that this type of cess is a type that is recognised as appropriate all the world over, that is to say, as appropriate to local taxation. The Select Committee in reporting on this point remarked as follows: "The machinery proposed was, although there were defects in the working of the Cess Act, making in some cases for inequity in the incidence of the tax, the best that could be devised, and the remedy for these defects could best be dealt with by revising the procedure under the Cess Act itself." In this connection I am authorised to say that the Revenue Member has undertaken to look into the defects in the Cess Act. We have made another change there. The Select Committee changed the proportion, of the cess from 1 : 4 to 2 : 3. Government, in view of the full consideration that they had already given to this matter, have reverted again to the proportion of 1 : 4. The reasons for our reverting to the proportion of 1 : 4 should perhaps be appropriately given at the stage of the amendments. But I might say at this stage that the reason is that the proportion of 1 : 4 seems fairer to the landlords. I worked out myself in the case of one district and found that the proportion of 1 : 4 was fairer. The raiyat would pay  $1\frac{1}{2}$  d. in the pound on his net income whilst the landlord would pay about 4 pence in the pound on his profits on land. On the proportion of 2 : 3 the raiyat would pay about a penny on the pound, but it would go up to 8 pence in the pound in the case of the landlord on his profits. That was in the case of the district for which I worked out the figures.

Another addition made by the Select Committee we have not accepted is that to employ the cess derivable from Burdwan in another district. I think that requires the sanction of the Governor-General. In section 44 we have made a condition enabling Government, after consulting the Central Committee, to order a District School Board to transfer some of their powers to union boards.

We have also added a provision transferring the rights at present district boards have in primary school property to the corresponding District School Boards. This was an obvious omission in the previous Bill.

For the rest, except for some drafting changes, the Select Committee's Bill practically remains as it was presented. It was found that a workable scheme could be devised under it. As proof of this, a provisional scheme, prepared by the Director of Public Instruction,

has been circulated to the members of the Council. This has not yet been approved by Government, and, therefore, we shall be glad to receive criticisms on its details. I maintain, therefore, after the full consideration which has been given to the Bill, it is now ready for the final consideration of the Council.

Before, however, I sit down, it is perhaps as well to state definitely what the financial liabilities of Government will be under this Bill. The financial position of the province is well known, and it is perfectly well known that we have no money at all for any large extra recurring expenditure. This is a fact which it is impossible to get round: it is not a matter of opinion. On the other hand, we are incurring certain extra expenditure under this Bill, and we may, therefore, be accused of incurring expenditure at the expense of other departments like the Public Health, Medical, etc. What we have, therefore, done, Sir, is to adopt a middle course, and we have only undertaken, in addition to our present liabilities, compulsory liabilities under the Bill. Thus, firstly, we shall make over all our present recurring grants for primary education which are given at present to the district boards to the new District School Boards. That sum amounts to roughly Rs. 21½ lakhs per annum. That sum, which is at present given to district boards, will be made over to the new District School Boards. Secondly, we shall pay for the inspectorate as at present, but if primary education is to be properly developed, then we shall have to have larger and better inspectorate. In the scheme which is being sent round the Director of Public Instruction has suggested a modest extra recurring expenditure of some Rs. 2,70,000. I have the misfortune to be the Financial Member also and I am afraid I shall not be able to accept it. The estimate will have to be reconsidered. I rather think we shall be able to make that figure smaller. Thirdly, we shall pay for the training school for teachers as at present. This means that we shall have to pay for the construction and maintenance of new schools. This provisional scheme gives an estimate of that also, from which it appears that we shall incur capital expenditure of some Rs. 2,70,000 per annum for five years. Now, there is no difficulty about capital expenditure: the trouble is about recurring expenditure, and here no extra recurring expenditure will be required till the year 1934-35. Up to that year we shall go on spending the same recurring amount as we are spending at present. These items constitute no new liability, though we are called upon to spend something extra on them. But under the Bill we shall have to pay as zamindars under the taxation proposals, and for two small items—travelling allowance of the school committee and a few extra clerks. These items I would classify as compulsory. If it were possible for Government to bear more of the expenditure, there is no doubt that Government would do so, but in the present state of its finances, this is impossible.

6 p.m.

**Mr. JOGESW CHANDRA GUPTA:** Mr. President, I rise to oppose the motion for the consideration of the Bill and object to the principle underlying the Bill. Let me, Sir, at the outset make it quite clear that we on this side of the House yield to none in our desire to introduce into the province of Bengal a scheme of free, universal and compulsory primary education. In fact, our party feels that such a Bill has long been overdue, and the Government has been guilty of culpable negligence in the past in not having brought forward such a Bill before. When we want bread, we are not prepared to take stones in its stead. You will notice that, except the word "primary" in the proposed Bill, the Bill is conspicuous by its absence about the provision of universal, free and compulsory primary education. We are clearly of opinion that the Bill will not achieve the purpose for which we all desire such a Bill to be enacted in this province. Firstly, because the scope of the Bill is narrow and must be widened if it has got to be an efficiency and useful measure; secondly, the object of the Bill is not clearly indicated and defined. There is nothing mentioned in this Bill about rapid and progressive realisation of universal free and compulsory education, and that has got to be effectively ensured if a Bill is going to do any good to us. Thirdly, we desire that there should be a popular machinery to control the administration and the funds which we are expected to raise by taxing ourselves; and fourthly, until Government definitely undertakes to bear a legitimate share of the expenses for primary education, we are not prepared, until other sources of indirect taxation have been explored, to burden ourselves with further taxation—a taxation, one-fifth of which are expected to be paid by the poor agriculturists and the entire amount of which are to be paid into the public treasury by the rent-receivers, big or small, whether they are able to collect the rent from the tenants or not: Sir, the very first objection regarding the scope of the Bill we cannot possibly remove and meet if we take the Bill into consideration. Neither in the House nor in the Select Committee we could possibly attempt and succeed in widening the scope of the Bill. The Rural Primary Education Bill only applies to the rural areas. The urban areas are excluded from the scope of the Bill. Now, Sir, it is quite well known that life in the urban areas is much more strenuous than the simple life in the rural areas and there is no necessity to accentuate the intelligence of the boys and girls there; it is much more necessary in urban areas where the boys and girls have got to adapt themselves to a more complicated state of things than in rural areas where boys and girls live a simpler life. In the next place, if the urban areas are left out of the Primary Education Bill it is useless to expect to enforce compulsion and prevent removal of the boys and girls from the rural areas into the urban areas. Thirdly, it would be much easier to

establish model primary schools and show the progress and development which is contemplated through Primary Education Bill in urban areas than in the interior of the rural areas: and, fourthly, I say that when we are leaving out the urban areas we are losing a considerable source of income that may be available from the cities and urban areas. I hope the House will agree with me that all these four points that I have placed before the House make out a very strong case for including the urban areas within the scope of any Bill which intends to provide for better education in primary matters. But, as I have already said as regards the scope of the present Bill, neither the House nor the Select Committee has the power, even if they desire or think it fit, to include the urban areas, because the scope of the Bill cannot be changed. Sir, this is the principal reason which makes it necessary to oppose the Bill at the consideration stage.

In the next place, we find that the object of the Bill is beautifully concise and sound. It is summed up in two charming words "better provision for education." I say it is dangerously vague, when we have got to leave the administration of the Act so largely in the hands of an irresponsible executive, we must know precisely what we are providing for, we must know the exact measure of progress that is contemplated in the Bill before we are called upon to inflict a cess upon the poor agriculturists and before the rent-receivers are called upon to shoulder the responsibility of paying that cess into the public treasury. This and the other two objections that I have mentioned, it may be said, can be remedied at the time of the consideration of the Bill; but I beg of this House to consider that if you have to change the Bill lock, stock and barrel, why waste the time of this House in considering the provisions of the Bill, the principle of which does not appeal to the members of this House, the elected representatives of the people. As I have said, the third objection is with regard to the machinery. If I have heard the learned mover of the Bill aright, I think he said that it would be a serious clog on the administration if they were to accept the recommendations of a Central authority, representative of the popular interest to have an effective Bill. I say, Sir, it is that mentality which is responsible for all the ills and evils which we have got to complain of. Until the Government and the members responsible for the administration will change their angle of vision, until they cease to look upon the advice of the popular representatives as a serious clog to the administration, there is no chance for advancement of the people of this province, either in educational or any other matters. They should have welcomed the suggestions of a popular controlling authority. They should have realised that if they wanted the people to tax themselves, the people expected that as they had to pay the piper they ought to be given the right to call for the tune. If the suggestion of a

popular representative body is looked upon as a serious clog in the administration, that really reflects the mentality and the principle upon which the Government intends to administer the Bill. Sir, it is a wellknown fact that when an irresponsible executive frames a scheme, they are apt to consider things from their own point of view. It can never be said that they ever reflect or focus the popular view in themselves. I was just looking at the scheme of primary education which has been circulated. You will notice there that some labour has been undertaken, some calculations have been made and huge figures have been compiled with regard to buildings for primary education. We all know that with the little funds at their disposal, district boards have to spend something between Rs. 800 and Rs. 1,000 in putting corrugated sheds of a certain type in order to get a grant of Rs. 3 or Rs. 4, although accommodation may be available in the houses of some rich inhabitants of the locality. Sometimes, as we know from our experience, owing to a cyclone some of these school buildings were blown off and then the Imperial grant was taken in rebuilding these schools with corrugated iron and other things, because under the rules Government would not grant Rs. 4 for teachers unless the school premises were accommodated in a certain type of buildings or Blockmann's exercise books or black-boards or some other things were provided. Well we know that all these could be avoided if popular representatives put their heads to consider if these were the preliminary requisites for primary education. If popular representatives advised the Government or took the control there would not be that feeling; in the expenditure of public funds, as we know the popular adage is—"Sarkar ka mal daria mé dal." If you really want to impart popular education, you must cease to look upon the popular body, the central authority, as a serious clog in the administration.

[At this stage the member, having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.]

6-15 p.m.

**Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE:** Up till now my attitude towards the Bill is one of universal negation. I am against the motion that has been moved by the Hon'ble Member, and, by anticipation, I am against the various amendments that are going to be proposed. I was prepared to be reconciled by the opening speech of the Hon'ble Member: but unfortunately Mr. McAlpin chose to hide his light under a bushel and marred the effect of his great and persuasive eloquence by preferring to be inaudible.

Sir, of the Bill in question it may be said, as was said of a famous joint by a distinguished man, that the joint was as bad as a joint

could be, it was ill cooked, ill dressed and ill served. Similarly this Bill is as bad as it could be; it is ill conceived, ill digested, ill drafted and ill presented and I think that the only fate which it deserves is one of total rejection. I consider the speech that I am going to deliver as one of the minor tragedies of my life. As a humble person connected with education for the last 30 years I should like to have education as much as possible, but not the type of education which the Bill proposes: more light but not through the darkened glasses which you provide. Coming to the Bill itself, I may say that I object to it wholesale—I object to the preamble, I object to the machinery which is proposed to be set up, and I object above all to the means of financing the scheme which you have provided.

Sir, I shall begin from the beginning. I shall begin with the preamble. We expected that, as a result of the scheme of taxation that was proposed, we were going to get full value for our money, But we find that it is nothing of the sort. We are going to get universal function all right—but no universal education in return for it. Our taxation is to be compulsory—all taxation is, I wish there could be some exception to it—but our education will be optional! In other words you will get your price but you will not deliver the goods. This is the new type of commercialism which the English are trying to introduce in this country, viz., to pocket the cash and let the consequences go. The Bengal Government might have taken a leaf out of provincial Governments elsewhere. What do we find in the preamble of the Bombay Bill? Our Bill is only for the "better" provision of primary education in rural areas. But in the Bombay Bill, there are no such narrow and restricting qualifications. Their preamble is much more ample and generous. It reads: "Whereas the declared policy of Government is that universal free compulsory primary education for boys and girls should be reached by definite progressive stages," and so on and so on. But nothing of this is to be noticed in the Bill which you have introduced, though as a provincial Government it might be presumed that you were capable of producing and drafting as good a measure as they. Our Bill appears to have been drafted after the model of the Madras Act. And it is curious that, whenever any precedent has to be followed, the Bengal Government goes to the worst one. There seems to be some kind of electric affinity between this Government and all bad Governments elsewhere.

Let us pass on from the question of preamble to the question of machinery. There has been some small improvement here as the result of the Select Committee's report; but the improvement is so slight as to be almost imperceptible. I shall take up the case of the different types of districts one after another. In districts which have two subdivisions the total number of members will be 16; and

out of that number 6 will be either officials or nominated—a proportion of 40 per cent. In districts which have three subdivisions, the total number of members will be 20; and out of these 8 will be either official or nominated members. Everywhere the proportion is the same, viz., 40 per cent. But may I ask, why should there be any official or nominated members at all? Why should not the District School Boards be wholly non-official and allowed to manage their affairs just as they like? The money will come entirely from the people; Government will not contribute one single cowrie towards the expenditure; nay, it is doubtful if they will continue even the beggarly contribution which they now give. They do not pay a single farthing; but when it comes to the question of control, 40 per cent. of the members must be their men! I do not understand the logic of the thing, and I hope the Hon'ble Member will take compassion upon my benighted understanding and explain it afterwards. Let us take the parallel case of Madras and Bombay. There also you have the system of nomination and election side by side. But in Madras it is provided that the number of official members shall never exceed one-fourth. In Bombay, so far as town areas are concerned it is never to be more than one-fourth and never to be less than one-fifth. In rural areas, the proportion is even better. It is only in Bengal that the proportion is over one-third and I should like to know what justification there is for it.

Let me pass on to the third point, the question of financing the scheme. It is here that the special iniquity of the Government proposal comes most strikingly out. Everywhere else, whether it is in Madras or Bombay, the Government makes an open declaration that they will contribute a certain percentage of the total expenditure. In Madras it is 50 per cent., in Bombay, for the town areas it is 50 per cent. and in rural areas 66 per cent. or two-thirds of the total expenditure incurred; two-thirds from the Government and one-third from the local authorities. In both these provinces they make a statutory provision beforehand that Government shall spend so much. But here, throughout the whole extent of the Bill, there is not a single word about Government contribution. As I was suggesting only a little while ago, they do not even give a statutory guarantee for continuing the provision that they now make. Even on that point they leave us uncertain; and my apprehensions are likely to prove well-founded when I say that this grant will be stopped because the law does not provide for it. And I ask my friends that they should refuse to take the Bill into consideration unless the Government first of all give a promise that they will contribute and contribute handsomely towards the total expenditure. A scheme must be drawn up, the amount of total expenditure likely to be incurred must be shown, and Government must declare that they will contribute a minimum of at least 50 per cent. of such total expenditure. If

the Government hold out that promise, then and then only shall we as representatives of the constituencies be justified in considering this Bill and not otherwise. I shall be confronted with the age-old plea that there is no money. What a wretched and lamentable confession for the Government to make! This Government takes as revenue more than 30 crores of rupees from the people of Bengal every year. Mr. McAlpin stares at me in wondering surprise! He will say that the provincial revenue is not more than 11 crores. I know that. But you raise 30 crores from the people, and it does not matter to me if, out of vicarious generosity, you hand over the bulk of it to the Government of India! But though you realize this huge sum as taxation from the people, you do not provide even a beggarly half a crore for primary education, forgetful of the elementary fact that provision for education is the first charge upon the resources of a civilised Government. Of course, you may say we are taking too much for granted; who told us that it was a civilised Government? But even assuming that I take too much for granted, it is up to you to justify your existence. The Hon'ble Finance Member may say where shall we get the money? But it is not my business to suggest the ways and means to him. It is he gets the salary, it is he enjoys the honours of his office, and the duties and responsibilities ought to be his! But if hints were wanted, there were many that might be forthcoming. You might slap on an additional tax, a sur-tax, upon superfluous incomes. You might try what is euphemistically called a readjustment of land-revenue. My zamindar friends are startled; but that also is a possible source of revenue, and, with due deference to the President, I shall say that it is a source which must be explored before the thing comes to an end. But that is not all. Even the additional tax you are going to impose, the five pice cess which you are going to levy, is distributed most unjustly and inequitably. In the original Bill the incidence of taxation was four pice upon the tenant and one pice upon the landlord: such was the tender mercy of the Government for the landlords of Bengal! However, the Select Committee made a change in this respect; they altered the proportion from 4 and 1 to 3 and 2. But the Government's love for the zamindar is unbounded! It has accepted every other suggestion of the Select Committee: but so far as this most just and righteous proposal is concerned, they have turned it down once again and have quietly gone back to the original proposal of four pice upon the tenant and one pice upon the landlord. Some distinguished gentlemen of the Swarajya party (who should be nameless) have gone even further; they have suggested that even this one pice upon the landlord is too much and that the whole of the cess must fall upon the tenant. Yea, the whole burden must fall upon the tenant, for have they not got backs, which are sufficiently broad, and therefore fit to be crushed under whatever additional taxation may be

going? Sir, these are some of the arguments that strike me at present and which I beg humbly to lay for the consideration of the House. I shall conclude as I began by suggesting that, so long as the Government do not make a definite declaration of its purpose as regards provision of finance, so long we shall be betraying the interests of the country and prejudicing the interests of the constituencies if we proceed to an immediate consideration of the Bill.

**Babu BEJOY KRISHNA BOSE:** This Bill was published in the *Calcutta Gazette* two years ago. Since then this Bill was before the House for consideration after circulation and lots of speeches were made here when this Bill was referred to a Select Committee. Members of this House who were members of the last Council know full well how not only members on this side but other members also were not inclined to send it to the Select Committee, but the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge assured us that all opinions would be considered in the Select Committee, all proposals, legal or illegal, would be carefully considered and we thought that the suggestions that we would make in the Select Committee would be considered by it. In the hope that Bill was sent to the Select Committee. The Select Committee met last winter and submitted a report. After that the Council was dissolved and the present Bill is now before a new House. I should like to ask the members of this House who were members of the Select Committee to consider the way in which their recommendations have been treated. I may point out that the Hon'ble Mr. McAlpin had gone through this Bill section by section but had not said a word about the scant courtesy Government had paid to some of the recommendations of the Select Committee. The point now is that we are asked to consider this Bill and the various amendments on the agenda paper. There are three courses open to us. We can either stop the further progress of this Bill if we think the Bill is not a progressive one.

6-30 p.m.

You can circulate it for public opinion: you can refer it to a Select Committee. Last of all if all these motions are defeated the several amendments on the agenda will be considered one after another. Now, personally speaking, I am in favour of stopping the further progress of the Bill here and now, for the simple reason that the things which we want the Government to do, or the Select Committee to do, will not be done even if it be circulated for public opinion. It had been circulated for public opinion and the volume of public opinion received is printed in a book form. I should like to ask the Government whether public opinion has ever influenced the Government in the least. You will find from a perusal of the provisions of the Bill that public opinion went for nothing, as I will presently show. It was referred to a Select Committee; the Select Committee

sent a preliminary report which was to the effect that they might take up the question of the extension of the provisions of the Bill to urban areas. That was returned to us as it was something beyond the scope of the Select Committee. The first thing I would like to impress on the members of the House is that if you want that the Bill should apply to urban areas neither circulation nor reference to the Select Committee would enable you to do so. Therefore, it is no use doing so. Now, the people want that this Bill should provide for free, compulsory and universal primary education. The Member-in-charge, presiding over the Select Committee, would perhaps say that this was beyond the provisions of this Bill. Then, we want that the Central Committee, which has been provided as an advisory body, should be the pivot on which primary education should rest. Possibly, the Hon'ble Member will say "that is beyond the provision of the Bill, I will not allow it!" What prevents the Government from making the Central Committee the real controlling authority. Government will give you C. I. D. ridden education, they will give you education through circle officers, but they will never agree to give the control of primary education to the Central Committee, neither will they allow the control to be vested in a representative district education board. If you want to make such a change in the Select Committee, perhaps the Government member will veto your proposal, and the result will be that the report will come to us in two or three months time in much the original form. I appeal to you to consider whether it is not time that a Primary Education Bill is brought before the Council enacted on the lines of the preamble of the Bombay Act, as read by my friend Mr. J. L. Bannerjee. If the Government are not inclined to do so, we are prepared to bring in a Bill of that type, and we would ask the House to consider whether they would prefer our Bill or the Government Bill. Sir, amendments have been sent in asking Government to make a statutory provision for Government to bear 50 or 60 per cent. of the expenses. That requires the sanction of His Excellency the Governor and I am quite sure if such a proposal is made it would be vetoed under section 80C. You will see that in a small matter, I mean section 3, the Select Committee omitted "the subdivisional officer ex-officio" to be a member of the committee. I am not giving out a secret, but I may say that the Select Committee said that as the District Magistrate was there, it was not necessary to make the subdivisional officer also a member of the committee. The Select Committee's report will show that this provision was omitted. In the Bill, however, this has been restored. Even in a matter like this Government think that their subdivisional officers should be there. Then, in this Bill there is a new section 5, and other sections which were not in the original Bill two years ago, neither in the last Bill. These new things have been introduced in the present Bill. We are at present not concerned with the inspecting

staff or the curricula: these will be considered when the time comes. Now, I shall come to the taxation proposal because that is the most objectionable feature of the Bill. In the matter of taxation the Select Committee said that the poor cultivators should not bear 4/5ths of the expenses. Even in this matter Government have restored the old provision by which the poor cultivators are required to pay four pice and the landlord one pice. Now, it is said that Government has no money. I do not care whether Government has money or not. Government cares very little for public opinion. From Bengal over 5 crores are taken away in the shape of income-tax and over 4 crores in the shape of export duty on jute. It is not necessary for the purpose of this Bill to levy new taxes. No attempt has been made to take a share of this amount towards meeting the cost of the primary education. From Bengal 8 crores of rupees are taken away by the Government of India, and still Government are trying to impose a new tax by placing the whole burden on the poor cultivators. I need not trouble the Council with Bombay or Madras figures. I find that in Bombay land revenue and income-tax come to about 9 crores and 20 lakhs. The Bombay Government spend 1 crore and 12 lakhs, and in Madras Rs. 1,41,14,4<sup>4</sup>8 were spent on primary education in the course of the last two years. What has Bengal done? A small amount of Rs. 21 lakhs is the recurring grant which the Bengal Government makes to the district boards for this purpose. The Hon'ble Minister said, I quote from his speech, "that the view of Government is that a cess shall be levied for meeting an appreciable part of the cost." My friend, Mr. P. N. Guha—we are very glad he has come back again, Government cannot do without him—said "that Government has no right to say that we must pay an educational cess even if we can point out sources from which necessary funds may be had." My friend Mr. Abul Kasem said that "there should be statutory provision for a substantial contribution by Government. There are other sources of taxation, he said, which should be tapped before additional taxation is levied." Now, what has been done with regard to the taxation provision? Section 30 has restored in entirety section 24 of the original Bill. Some of my friends want this Bill circulated for public opinion. Can you get better opinion couched in better and stronger language than the opinions already received of Government's own officers? I would refer to some opinions of Government officers—Magistrates, Commissioners, subdivisional officers and others, and they are entirely in agreement with us. The District Magistrate of Birbhum opposes the levy of a cess on land altogether, for the pressing needs of the country are for fighting malaria and other epidemics and the eradication of water hyacinth. The District Magistrate of Midnapore apprehends that it would retard the provision of adequate funds for an efficient public health organisation, for extension of medical relief, for better rural water-supply and the improvement of

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agriculture. He must be a faddist, because he holds the same opinion as we do. The Deputy Commissioner of Darjeeling writes "it appears to be that the rate fixed is rather high and will make the Bill unpopular with the cultivating classes." The Muhammadan Literary Society says "Government share of contribution, say 50 per cent., should be incorporated in the Act." The Magistrate of 24-Parganas says "experience shows indirect taxation is better and less unpopular than direct. The proposed cess will give some trouble." The Commissioner of the Burdwan Division says "much of the opposition would be withdrawn if Government would signify a minimum share of the cost for which it would be responsible." The Commissioner of the Presidency Division says "there must be a statutory obligation on the State to contribute a definite share of the cost which would reduce the rate to three pice in the rupee and an express provision to that effect should be inserted in the Bill." The same is the opinion of the Magistrate of Jessore. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce say this: "They would greatly like to see the Bill provide a smaller cess to begin with, say at the rate of one pice instead of four pice from the cultivator and a quarter of that amount from the zamindar." The Magistrates of Nadia and Howrah also were opposed to the taxation clause. Can you expect any change if you refer the Bill to Select Committee? Therefore the best thing to do is to stop the Bill here and ask Government to bring a Bill which would be more popular and if they refuse to do that, to give us time to bring up our own Bill.

#### **Adjournment.**

The Council was then adjourned till 3 p.m., on Tuesday, the 6th August, 1929, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

**Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under  
the provisions of the Government of India Act.**

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 6th August, 1929, at 3 p.m.

**Present:**

Mr. President (the Hon'ble Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHAUDHURY, of Santosh), in the Chair, the four Hon'ble Members of the Executive Council and 125 nominated and elected members.

**Starred Questions**

(to which oral answers were given).

**Hunger-strike in Barisal Jail.**

\*18. Babu SARAL KUMAR DUTT: (a) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political (Jails) Department aware that Srijut Satindra Nath Sen and some others were on hunger-strike for a long time in the district jail of Barisal?

(b) If so, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state—

(i) the reasons for their hunger-strike;

(ii) what steps were taken to induce the hunger-strikers to take food; and

(iii) for how many days the hunger-strikers were kept on artificial feeding at a stretch?

(c) Is it a fact that interviews for the purpose of inducing the hunger-strikers to take food were not allowed to some friends of the prisoners? If so, why?

(d) Is it a fact that Srijut Satindra Nath Sen suffered substantial loss of weight as a consequence of the hunger-strike?

(e) If so, by how many pounds?

**MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL (JAILED) DEPARTMENT  
(the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter):** (a) Yes.

(b) (i) The original reason given by Satindra Nath Sen was that he was fasting for spiritual gain. Later he said that his reason for continuing the fast was that he had been unjustly charged with an offence under section 52 of the Prisons Act.

(ii) The Jail Superintendent, the District Magistrate and official and non-official visitors endeavoured to persuade the prisoners to take food, and food was always at hand in their ward.

(iii) One prisoner was fed by the stomach tube for 25 days, one for 22 days, one for 17 days, two for 15 days, one for 13 days, three for 11 days, one for 10 days, and one for 6 days.

(c) Interviews were allowed to many persons including Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose, M.L.C., and Mr. Sarat Chandra Guha, Chairman of the Barisal Municipality, but were refused in some cases where the Superintendent of the Jail considered that while the interviews were unlikely to be effective in inducing the prisoners to take food in a normal manner, they might cause excitement and fatigue, or where the prisoners were unwilling or unable without undesirable effect to go through the interview.

(d) and (e) During his fast Satindra Nath Sen's weight was reduced from 139 to 112½ lbs.

**Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state if Srijut Satindra Nath Sen has taken food now?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I believe he has not taken food now.

**Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state how many days it is since he gave up taking food?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I cannot say offhand; within the last few days he has not taken food.

**Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether any extra medical precaution is being taken in the jails with regard to these hunger striking prisoners?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I believe the Superintendent, who is a medical man, is watching very carefully the effect of the hunger-strike on the health of the prisoners.

**Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what efforts are being made to induce Srijut Satindra Nath Sen to take food?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I have no information just now on the point.

**Number of non-military Rifle shooting clubs and associations for target practice.**

\*19. **Babu MANMATHA NATH ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state—

- (i) how many non-military Rifle shooting clubs and associations for target practice on miniature and other ranges there are in this Presidency at present;
- (ii) how many on miniature ranges and how many on other ranges;
- (iii) how many of them are Government or Government-aided clubs;
- (iv) in cases of Government or Government-aided clubs, for whom they are meant, and what amount is spent for, or given to, each club yearly;
- (v) on what conditions, if any, and in what form the license is given under the Indian Arms Act to those clubs; and
- (vi) the names of the clubs or associations and their addresses?

**MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly):** (i) Two.

(ii) One on a miniature range, one on a range of about 100 yards in length.

(iii) None.

(iv) Does not arise.

(v) Form XV.

(vi) (1) Tollygunj Club, Ltd., Tollygunj, 24-Parganas. (2) B.-N. Railway Miniature Rifle Club, Kidderpore, Calcutta.

**All-Bengal Settlement Press Compositors' Conference.**

\*20. **Mr. K. C. RAY CHAUDHURI:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether he has received a copy of the resolutions and the proceedings of the All-Bengal Settlement Press Compositors' Conference held in Jeesore on the 14th September, 1928?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the same?

(c) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state—

(i) the number of resolutions passed thereat; and

(ii) what consideration Government proposes to give to them?

**MEMBER in charge of REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter):** (a) Yes.

- (b) A copy is laid on the Library table.
- (c) (i) Sixteen.
- (ii) The resolutions were passed before the Association received recognition. Any reasoned representations submitted through proper channel will be considered on their own merits.

**Allegations against Superintendent, Alipore Central Jail, and Press and Forms Manager.**

**\*21. Mr. K. C. RAY CHAUDHURI:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether the Government had received a copy of a resolution passed at a meeting of the Press Employees' Association, Calcutta, held on the 25th May, 1929, making allegations against the Superintendent of the New Central Jail, Alipore, and the Press and Forms Manager, Bengal?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the Government has taken any action in the matter? If not, why not?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** (a) Yes.

(b) No. The Superintendent of the Jail refused leave to employees on a day which was not a jail holiday. This is in accordance with the rules in the Bengal Forms Manual.

**Unstarred Questions**

**(answers to which were laid on the table).**

**Political Prisoners.**

**21. Mr. SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political (Jails) Department be pleased to state—

- (i) whether there are any persons in Bengal jails classed as "special class" prisoners;
- (ii) what special treatment is accorded to special class prisoners;
- (iii) the number of "special class" prisoners, their names and the jails in which they are confined;
- (iv) for what offences persons classed as "special class" prisoners in Bengal jails have been convicted;

(v) whether all political prisoners are classed as "special class" prisoners; and

(vi) if not, whether the Government are considering the desirability of treating all political prisoners as "special class" prisoners?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** (i) Yes.

(ii), (iv) and (v) The member is referred to Chapter XXXIV-A of the Jail Code.

(iii) One. Satyaranjan Bakshi in the Presidency Jail.

(vi) No.

**Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to give his reasons for his answer (vi)?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I have nothing to add to what I have already said.

#### Prisoners under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1925.

**22. Mr. SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state—

(i) whether there are any prisoners detained in the jails in India under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1925;

(ii) whether there are prisoners interned outside jails under the said Act; and

(iii) whether there are any persons whose liberty has been partially restrained under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1925?

(iv) if so, their names and the nature of such partial restraint.

**MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly):** (i) No.

(ii) No.

(iii) There is no restraint on the liberty of movement of any person.

(iv) Does not arise.

#### Refusal of a licence for revolver to an M.L.C. of Pabna.

**23. Srijut BIJAY KUMAR CHATTERJEE:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state the number of persons (non-official) holding licence for revolvers in the district of Pabna?

(b) How many of such persons also possess licence for guns?

(c) Is it a fact that application for the licence of a revolver recently made by Srijut Jogendra Nath Moitra, M.L.C., Zamindar of Sitlai, of the district of Pabna, was refused?

(d) If the answer to (c) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reasons for such a refusal?

(e) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that under rule and order 52, published in Bengal Arms Act Manual, 1924, Chapter III, page 153, the said M.L.C. has the qualifications II, III and IV rendering him suitable for the grant of the licence prayed for without any previous inquiry?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** (a) Ten.

(b) Three.

(c) Yes.

(d) and (e) The rule quoted is intended for the guidance of officers dealing with applications for gun licences. The relevant rule in the matter of applications for revolver licences is rule 58 on page 156, which lays down that such licences shall be granted only in cases of real necessity. The case of Srijut Jogendra Nath Moitra was not considered to be of that nature.

#### **Accommodation of Muhammadan employees in Government quarters at Darjeeling.**

**24. Maulvi SHAMSUDDIN AHMED:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Public Works Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Muhammadan assistants and typists of the Bengal Secretariat are sometimes required to go up to the hills with the move of Government?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing year by year, for the last five years, the approximate number of Muhammadan assistants and typists who were taken up from all the departments of the Bengal Secretariat?

(c) Is it a fact that all the assistants and typists, viz., Hindus, Muhammadans, Anglo-Indians and Brahmos, who are taken up to Darjeeling, are provided with residential quarters by Government?

(d) Is it a fact that the quarters which have been set apart for the Muhammadan assistants and typists can accommodate only eight persons?

(e) Is it a fact that owing to the increase in the number of Muhammadan assistants and typists in the Secretariat many of them are required to stay outside the Government quarters for want of accommodation?

(f) Is it a fact that much inconvenience is felt by these assistants and typists in securing suitable accommodation in Darjeeling at moderate rates?

(g) If the answer to (f) is in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of taking proper steps for providing **every** Muhammadan assistant and typist with proper accommodation while staying at Darjeeling with Government?

**MEMBER in charge of PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McAlpin):** (a) Yes.

(b) 1924—1st trip, Approx. No. 9.

1924—2nd trip, Approx. No. 11.

1925—1st trip, Approx. No. 7.

1925—2nd trip, Approx. No. 8.

1926—1st trip, Approx. No. 9.

1926—2nd trip, Approx. No. 12.

1927—1st trip, Approx. No. 11.

1927—2nd trip, Approx. No. 12.

1928—1st trip, Approx. No. 11.

1928—2nd trip, Approx. No. 10.

(c) Yes, up to the limit of accommodation available in Government quarters. Others are paid house rent in accordance with the provision of the Darjeeling Allowance Code.

(d) Yes.

(e) Only those in excess of 8.

(f) Government are not aware of the fact.

(g) Does not arise.

#### Hunger-strike in Barisal Jail.

**25. Dr. MOHINI MOHAN DAS:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that Srijut Satindra Nath Sen and others were on hunger-strike for a long time in the district jail of Barisal?

(b) If so, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state—

(i) the reasons for their hunger-strike;

(ii) what steps were taken to induce the hunger-strikers to take food; and

(iii) for how many days the hunger-strikers were kept on artificial feeding at a stretch?

(c) Is it a fact that interviews for the purpose of inducing the prisoners to take food were not granted to some friends of the prisoners? If so, why?

(d) Is it a fact that Srijut Satindra Nath Sen had substantial loss of weight as a consequence of the hunger-strike?

(e) If so, by how many pounds?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** (a) to (e) The member is referred to the replies given to a starred question on this subject put at this meeting by Babu Saral Kumar Dutt.

#### Burmese political prisoners in Bengal Jails.

**28. Babu PRATUL CHANDRA GANCOLI:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether there are any Burmese political prisoners in Bengal jails?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether they are supplied with Burmese diet? If not, why not?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** (a) There is one Burman who was convicted in Burma of an offence under section 124-A of the Indian Penal Code.

(b) No; he is keeping good health and there is no reason for giving him special diet.

**Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether any inquiry was made from the prisoner whether he would like to have Burmese diet?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I want notice of this question.

#### Moslem employees in Jails.

**27. Maulvi ABDUL MAKIM:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political (Jails) Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(i) the total number of—

" "(a) Jailors,

(b) Deputy Jailors.

- (c) Assistant Jailors,
- (d) Head Clerks,
- (e) Jail Clerks,
- (f) Factory Staff, and
- (g) Sub-Jail Clerks,

existing at present in the Bengal Presidency;

- (ii) the number of Muhammadans in each cadre;
- (iii) the number of vacancies which occurred in each of the above posts during the years 1927, 1928 and up to the end of June, 1929; and
- (iv) the number of these posts filled in by Muhammadans?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) A statement is laid on the table.

*Statement referred to in the reply to clauses (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) of unstarred question No. 27.*

Designation.	Total number of posts.	Number of Muhammadans in each cadre.	Number of vacancies in the posts during—			Number of posts filled in by Muhamma- dans—		
			1927.	1928.	1929 up to June.	1927.	1928.	1929 up to June.
(a) Jailors ..	24	2	2	2	..	1	..	..
(b) Deputy Jailors ..	37	11	7	..	..	4	..	..
(c) Assistant Jailors ..	17	7	..	..	..	..	..	..
(d) Head Clerks ..	5	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
(e) Jail Clerks ..	43	14	21	4	2	6	1	1
(f) Factory Staff ..	154*	54	3	7	1	1	4	1
(g) Sub-Jail Clerks ..	58†	11	..	3	2	..	1	1

\* Including Press and Forms Department.

† Including 21 part-time clerks.

### GOVERNMENT BILL.

#### The Bengal (Rural) Primary Education Bill, 1929.

The discussion on the Bengal (Rural) Primary Education Bill, 1929, was then resumed.

**Raja BHUPENDRA NARAYAN SINHA Bahadur, of Nashipur:** After what had been said yesterday, I have nothing to add. But

from the speeches I gathered that the Bill has not been able and has failed to satisfy any party or any class of people in Bengal. Would it be advisable for the Government to enforce such a Bill which has a universal dissatisfaction? Moreover, the Bill is also very hard for one class of people, namely, the agriculturists. The Government desire to impart free primary education to the villagers at the cost and sacrifice and at the life-blood of the poor cultivators. There are artisans, school-masters and other classes of people besides the cultivating classes whose number is equally large as that of the cultivators. The Bill provides to impart free education to those classes of people without touching a single pice from their pockets. At present there is the road and public works cesses payable by the cultivators only. The advantages and benefits derived from these road and public work cesses are actually enjoyed by both classes of people. Would it be desirable to put another burden on the cultivators for the benefit of other classes of people? To my mind, the taxes should be equally distributed to all classes of people who would be directly benefited by this Act instead of concentrating or putting burden to one class of people only as suggested in the Bill.

Yesterday Babu Jitendralal Bannerjee observed that the Government modified the taxation and proposed to levy one-fifth from zamindars and four-fifths from tenants. I may say that even one pie tax on a zamindar or a tenure-holder is only a direct tax. There are, besides, other indirect and incidental taxes which a zamindar has to bear simultaneously, e.g., the collection charges and so on. It is very surprising that the Bill proposes 10 per cent. collection charges to the union board, but it is silent in the case of landlords. One may say that as the zamindar has his own agencies and gomasthas in villages and as he has not to make any separate establishment for the collection of cesses, there is no extra cost for this. If this principle holds good for zamindars why should it not apply to the union board which has also agencies for collecting taxes. On the other hand the Bill, as drafted, allows 10 per cent. collection charges to these boards. Sir, it is most surprising that at present no money is allowed in the Roads and Public Works Cess Act for the realisation of these cesses. But the Government who have not to collect any cess but only to keep account, make a very big profit thereby as maintenance charge, I think, about Rs. 60,000 from the District Board Fund. So far as I remember, their charges are about more than 6 per cent. on the total collection for keeping accounts only, whereas the zamindars, who have to go to the interior of the villages and to make the collection of 1 or 2 pies and they have to keep thousands and thousands of accounts in their sherista, are allowed no remuneration. If the zamindars are deprived of the collection charges why should not the Government, who have same agencies in the Collectorate such as sheristadar and accountant be deprived of it? Is there any justification to allow

the collection charges to one person and depriving the other? From this one can make a rough idea as to the amount of collection charges which the zamindars have to bear and pay from their own pockets. If 6 per cent. be charged for keeping accounts how much can be fixed for collection as well as for keeping thousands and thousands of petty accounts. It cannot be less than 15 per cent.

3-15 p.m.

Secondly, Sir, there is another indirect tax on the landholders, namely, the cess from the rent-free holders. The cess from this class of people is so small such as half-a-pie or a pie and the collection involves so much burden and cost that the landlords generally, instead of collecting the cess, pay it from their own pockets. Formerly the road and public works cesses used to be collected by the Collector of a district but finding difficulty in collection, even with the Certificate procedure, the work has been entrusted to the zamindars with the result that the zamindars have to bear an additional indirect tax. So if the proposed clause be accepted, the zamindars have to pay another indirect tax of not less than two pies in a rupee.

Even for argument sake, if one pie tax be imposed on the zamindars what benefit would they derive? Certainly, they would not get any direct benefit but they will have one consolation that their tenants are getting primary education. If that be so, the Government should have more consolation and satisfaction to think that their subjects who are of more permanent character than tenants, are getting free primary education. If the cost for this consolation be one pie in every rupee, what would be the charge for the Government for their satisfaction—certainly much more. But unfortunately, the Bill has not provided any suggestion about Government contribution. As it is the duty of good citizen to help a Government, so it is the duty of the Government to help the people. But in the present Bill the Government propose to contribute nothing and to extract all money from the one class of people in order to impart education at the cost of the people. This is inconceivable. There should be more provision in the Bill as to the amount of contribution of the Government.

With these few words I beg to oppose the measure.

**Masivi ABDUL KARIM:** It would be superfluous to say that a Primary Education Act has been long overdue in this province. Although Bengal is regarded as the most advanced province in India, in the matter of primary education it is far behind some of the other provinces. In Madras an Elementary Education Act was passed a decade ago, and in Bombay a similar Act has been in operation since 1923. In the Punjab, as remarked in a recent meeting of the Punjab Legislature by Mr. Calvert, the Education Secretary, "Compulsion

already introduced in the Punjab represents two hundred times more than the steps in the same direction taken by all other provinces of India put together." In spite of this "marvellous progress" a special committee has lately been appointed with a view to the introduction of compulsory primary education in the province.

It is very much to be regretted that the Government of Bengal has been reprehensibly slow in taking necessary steps for the spread of primary education. At last a Primary Education Bill was introduced in the last Council, and it was referred to a Select Committee consisting of 32 members. The Committee met from time to time for about six months, and thoroughly discussed the clauses of the Bill. That so many as nineteen of the members signed the report subject to their notes of dissent unmistakably shows the great difference of opinion that prevailed. The most important question to be considered in this connection is that of finance; unless adequate funds are provided little progress can be made.

One of the points that was particularly stressed in the report of the Select Committee, as well as in the notes of dissent by its members, and also in the opinion expressed by those who were consulted in the matter, was about the statutory obligation of the State to contribute a definite share of the cost of primary education, and insertion in the Bill of an express provision to this effect. The Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill has not, however, taken any notice of this volume of opinion and has not thought it necessary to put in the Bill even a word as to the share of cost that the Government is prepared to bear. The Madras Education Act of 1920, on which the Bill before the House is said to have been based, provides as follows: "When an elementary education fund is constituted under section 32, the Governor in Council shall contribute thereto a sum not less than the proceeds of the taxation levied under section 34 on behalf of the fund."

"Provided that such contribution shall be in addition to, and not in lieu of, the amount of recurring expenditure incurred from the Provincial funds during the financial year before the coming into force of this Act."

The Bombay Primary Education Act of 1923 recognises the statutory obligation of the Government as regards the cost of Primary Education by the following clause:—

"The Government shall bear half of the additional recurring cost of the scheme if the local authority is a Municipality and two-thirds of the said cost if the local authority is a District Local Board.

Nothing in this section shall affect the claim of any local authority to any annual grant which at the time this Act comes into operation is being paid to it by the Government for purposes of Primary Education."

While other Provincial Governments have been bearing a fair share of the cost of primary education, there seems to be no reason why the Government of Bengal should not contribute an adequate amount for primary education in the province. I have tabled an amendment to this effect, and I hope the Member in charge of the Bill will see his way to accept it.

The Select Committee's recommendation regarding the apportionment of the proposed cess has not been accepted. I need hardly say that it would be unjustifiable to saddle the poor tenant with the major portion of the cost of primary education. I hope the amendment I have proposed assigning an equal share of the cost to the landlord and the tenant will be taken into careful consideration. Besides, the various avenues of indirect taxation should be thoroughly explored in coming to a final decision regarding the financing of any comprehensive scheme of primary education in the province.

One other point on which stress was laid in the notes of dissent was the limited scope of the Bill. The Select Committee discussed the advisability of extending the scope of the Bill so as to cover the introduction of universal free compulsory primary education both in rural and urban areas. But this course was held to be out of order. It was hoped that in the new Bill instead of merely making better provision for primary education, a scheme would be provided for a system of universal education within a definite period, for which the country has long been clamouring. But this has not been done. The Bill under discussion is as unduly limited in scope and extent as the old Bill. There can be no justification for levying a universal cess unless education is made universal. It may not be possible to have universal education in the immediate future but we should have at least the ideal of universal education before us. But the Bill that has been introduced has not that ideal.

The desirability of having one legislation for both rural and urban areas was urged by several members of the Select Committee. But urban areas have not been included in the scope of the Bill. I need hardly say that it is most desirable that the question of primary education should be considered as a whole for the entire province. There might be differences in the curriculum for different areas and denominations, but there should be one uniform law for the whole province. The Bengal Primary Education Act of 1919 has become inoperative for want of funds. Besides few of the municipalities have shown any enthusiasm for primary education. Many of the municipalities are merely overgrown villages with a large rustic population. If they are not brought within the range of the Bill, education of their inhabitants will suffer. Moreover, the residents of these areas (traders, money-lenders, lawyers and others) who are rich and prosperous and who have, in many cases, fattened on the ignorance of the

masses, should not be exempted from the proposed taxation. The Bombay Primary Education Act of 1918, which was applicable only to the district municipalities, was repealed when the Bombay Primary Education Act of 1923, which extended to the whole Presidency except the city of Bombay, was passed. There is no reason why the same course should not be followed in Bengal.

For the success of a new scheme of education, sufficient popular support is essential. This should have been kept in view in forming the Central and District School Boards. It would be unwise to alienate public sympathy by too much officialising these bodies. I do not think there is need for much official tutelage in a matter of this kind.

For the reasons I have stated the Bill, I need hardly say, requires thorough revision. It should be either substituted by a new Bill or referred to a Select Committee.

**Babu AMARENDRANATH CHATTERJI:** I read in the brochure on Primary Education in Bengal by my friend Babu Nalinirajan Sarker that it was gratifying to find that the Bengal Government seems to have become conscious of its responsibility as the introduction of the Primary Education Bill in this Council proves. It is gratifying, nay it is fortunate that, after a rule of more than a century and a half, the Bengal Government have been roused to their sense of responsibility, but it is unfortunate that I stand to oppose the Bill, not because I do not want our rural children to be educated, but because I do not want them to be deprived of their bread, manhood and very life in the name of education. I have gone through the Bill carefully and I am fully conscious of the fact that such a Bill could be thought of by this Government only.

In dealing with the preamble, I beg to submit that the wordings should have been—"Whereas it is expedient to make provision for further tightening the grip of the Government in the rural areas, a Bill for primary education be devised." This would have been more honest and fair to a people who are striving for Swaraj.

3-30 p.m.

I cannot persuade myself to believe that this Bill has been produced out of a sense of duty and responsibility or out of feeling of compassion for the teeming millions of our illiterate rural people. Rather it has been brought home to the Government that the rural people are getting out of the hands of the Government, as the recent elections have proved to the hilt, and I believe that the Government people who are at the helm of affairs set to work out a solution of the problem and found out that unless they caught hold of these people who are growing into a nation at the outset of their life they could not stand any longer where they were standing. This was the only motive

why this Bill has been brought into existence. Sir, the growing influence of the Congress and the growing attachment of the rural people to the Congress workers and the rising aspirations of the people of rural areas for swaraj, the youth and the student movements, etc.—these are the incentives of this Bill. I do not think that it is worth analysing the Bill in detail. Had it not come from Government, we would not have discussed it on the floor of this House. Had it been introduced by any one else who had some little interest in the people of this country we would have dealt differently with him. But this Bill, as coming from Government, is merely a display of the trusteeship and is only to justify their existence on the face of so many ordinances and regulations which are prevailing in the country. The policy that led the Government to pass ordinances is the very policy which has made the Government to frame this obnoxious yet charming Bill. Charming indeed is the title. Sir, it has been said that the Bill has passed committee stage. No, Sir, that will not do. New people have come into this Council, and if the Bill is once more before the Council it must pass through another committee stage because I have said new people have come in with a new angle of vision.

We find that there is a central primary education committee provided for in the Bill. If we look into the constitution of the committee we find that it is to be constituted of the Director of Public Instruction, of the District Magistrate, of the Subdivisional Officer, of the Inspector of Schools and so forth, and I beg to rectify a mistake and would suggest that the names of the Sub-Inspector of Police of the C. I. D. officers of the district and of the informers should also be included in the committee. The Sub-Registrars and others might also come in, and I do not know why their names should be left out. It may be because there is still a sense of delicacy and decency left in the Government. So the names of the police officers have been left out.

Sir, in Chapter 4 of the Bill we come to the cess. People are to pay 5 pice on each rupee for the education of their children. The major portion of this cess is to be paid by the agriculturists, as if our agriculturists are richer than the zamindars, as if they are a thriving people and can afford to pay that sum for the education of their children. Sir, somebody asked me about this cess, and I told him that it was quite in keeping with those people, one of whom said, being asked if there was famine in his district, that there was no famine "since leaves are left in the trees and women are not becoming prostitutes."

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** Mr. Chatterji, I must ask you to withdraw that expression. I was told that you were making your maiden speech

to-day. Naturally I was inclined to give you some latitude. I should now like to hear from you more about the Bill than about things which are not directly connected with it.

**Babu AMARENDRANATH CHATTERJI:** Very well, Sir, I withdraw the expression. With regard to cess it is a preposterous proposition. I think the provincial revenue ought to be responsible for this expenditure. Sir, we know our country better than those who framed this Bill and we know that our countrymen cannot afford to pay any further than they are now paying. If we could induce our people and zamindars to pay 5 pice per rupee for education we would have introduced national education on a larger scale. On behalf of my constituency from which I have got a mandate I oppose this Bill as it is absolutely impossible to agree to this Bill as it stands for all these causes I have dealt with. I therefore request my hon'ble friends to throw out this Bill if possible or to send it to a fresh Select Committee.

**Babu SURENDRA MOHAN MOITRA:** I rise to join my voice with that of my friend Mr. Gupta regarding this Bill. I regret very much that I cannot accord my whole-hearted support to it. The Bill as it stands contains germs of more harm than good to our people. To me it looks like a camouflage designed to deceive the people whose clamour for free and compulsory education has been very insistent. It does not provide for immediate introduction of free and compulsory education. There is not in it any indication how the education promised to our people will be imparted. There runs throughout the Bill that suspicion about the capacities of our people to mould our own future which is writ large in the history of British rule in India. At every step we feel that we are still to be in the leading strings of the officials. I do not find any reason why a district magistrate or subdivisional officer should be an ex-officio member in school boards. What is the necessity of these estimable gentlemen to be on the board. Is it because that they are Government servants and therefore they are experts in education. I fight shy also of nominations and appointments because I know from my own experience that it is more often abused. Those nominations are practically made at the instance of the district magistrates who use the power always on the principle of patronages and not on the grounds of quality. This House will bear with me for a minute when I cite an instance or two. How can we account for a nomination in the managing committee of a first grade Government college of a gentleman who has no education whatsoever and who does not know the difference of pure mathematics from mixed mathematics, who cannot follow even the discussion in the committee, but has been glorified as a doctor, though I do not

know where he got this title. I know of other instances where nominations are made in this way. People are nominated on the district boards whose knowledge of the districts does not travel beyond the houses of the Collector and the Superintendent of Police and whose only qualification is that of giving parties to every incoming and outgoing official. I next come to the question of taxation. We are to pay a crore of rupees by taxation and 5 pice per rupee will have to be borne by those people who can hardly make their two ends meet. To tax the already over-taxed people who have hardly one meal a day is preposterous, when we find that the provincial revenue is squandered by the Government for the so-called purpose of law and order. Unless this portion of the Bill is recast and money is found by other means say by indirect taxation, the Bill cannot be acceptable to the people. I then object to the method of realisation of the proposed tax, because it will hurt the landlords first though it will ultimately recoil upon the poor tenants.

Sir, I raise my voice against the introduction of religious training in these primary schools. My first reason is that it will seek to perpetuate the communal spirit which is already disfiguring our national life and activities. My next objection is that I do not like to allow my religion to be controlled in any way by an alien Government. There has been cultural conquest already. Pray, for Heaven's sake, do not try to conquer my religion. It is for these reasons that I would like the Bill to be remodelled in the light of criticisms offered by this side of the House. I would therefore like to make a present of that admirable booklet written by my friend, Mr. Naliniranjan Sarker, to the Director of Public Instruction for guidance.

**Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA:** May I ask on a point of information whether having regard to the fact that a large number of speeches have been made opposing the Bill, would it not be convenient to have somebody from the Government side to speak in support of the Bill.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** I do not think I should call upon any member to speak.

**Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY:** Vitally interested though I am, as a humble member of this Hon'ble Council in all matters that primarily affect the interests of the people, I must confess that on this occasion I am unable to speak authoritatively on behalf of those whose interests will be mostly affected by the provisions of this Bill, because, unfortunately, Sir, I am not a landlord, fortunately Sir, I am not a tenant, and providentially, Sir, I am not rural, nor have I been returned by a rural constituency. As a vitally interested spectator

it seems to me, Sir, that all this wrangling, this searching criticism, this dissection is due to the fact that we shall be called upon to pay for the administration of primary education. Now, Sir, there is no doubt in my mind that to some extent this child that has been produced is malformed but I doubt very much that if we had not been called upon to pay for the maintenance of this deformed offspring whether we should have at this stage criticised the provisions of this Bill so intensively, I am assured by a great protagonist of the tenants, my friend Shah Abdul Hamid or rather Abdul Hamid Shah of Mymensingh, that the tenants are dying to pay 4 pice or 5 pice per rupee or even more if necessary, provided that this Bill is put into operation and they get the inestimable boon of primary education. They will forget in their joy the drought that has affected their crops, the floods that are playing havoc with them, the lack of irrigation facilities, provided that they are educated and they are able to educate their children. But he makes one grave condition, and that is that this Bill should be in full operation in the course of a year so that the people may know that they have received something in return for what they are paying. We know perfectly well, Sir, that this is impossible and many people will have to go on paying for years and years before they will get compulsory education introduced in their districts. Therefore, Sir, I do not know to what extent this assurance of the Shah Sahib will carry weight when we come to consider whether this Bill should be put into operation or not. Hence, Sir, with great hesitation and considerable risk to myself, I presume to place before the Council what my own views are in the matter. It seems to me, Sir, that although there is a vital necessity for a primary education Bill to be introduced in this province and that as soon as possible, it is yet early to place the Bill before the Council when the financial condition of the province is in the wretched state in which we find it to-day. Every year we are met with a deficit; there is no money even to carry on the ordinary administration, let alone any funds for a Government contribution from the general funds. I believe this year there was a deficit of a crore and three lakhs of rupees. Every year it will not be the good fortune of the Government of Bengal that a jute magnate will expire and leave a very handsome sum for its exchequer. We have approached the Government of India over and over again with the plea that we are contributing far too much for the Central Government, that we are entitled in all fairness and justice to certain dues that are now being appropriated by it, that we are unable to meet the deficit, that there is no reserve of taxation, and now we are going to tax our people 4 pice, and 1 pice or 2 pice and 3 pice whatever it may be in order to introduce this scheme of reform. The Government of India will turn round and say that the needs of the Government of Bengal are vital, that the needs of the administration are vital—far more vital than imparting education.

The government has to be carried on first; later you can pay attention to subsidiary activities. If we do not provide funds for the Government of India where will it get money to erect balustrades outside the Ochterlony Monument ground. My own humble suggestion would have been to declare and affirmatively declare that there is absolutely no reserve in Bengal on which to fall back for purposes of taxation. We know that there is no reserve and that we are committing a considerable amount of hardship on the poor people when we are calling upon them to pay for this education. Sacrifice is essential, but it must be limited to their capacity. I would like these expenses of education were met from the general revenue. We are entitled to have certain well-defined dues which are now being taken by the Government of India spent on Bengal; and if these dues are given to Bengal, then there will be a surplus from which to meet the expenses from the general revenue, and we will not be called upon to tax people when it is extremely doubtful whether they will be able to pay these taxes. When the collection is made I would not like to be in the shoes of my friend the Shah Sahib and those gentlemen who will stand up and say that the poor people are prepared to pay 4 pice or 5 pice freely, gladly. On the other hand theirs is the risk and theirs is the responsibility. I have given my own views, which I maintain is the correct view; we ought first to settle matters with the Government of India before we launch upon such an ambitious scheme; but if my friends want to pay, why then let them have leave, and that as soon as possible, to introduce this Bill, so that we may descend to the details and begin to vote on the provisions of the Bill.

**Mr. BIJOY PROSAD SINGH ROY:** The Bill has now been criticised in all its aspects and all its provisions have been carefully considered and analysed in this Council. My friend the Raja of Nashipur has attempted to make a special pleading on behalf of the zamindars. Personally I feel that no special pleading is necessary on behalf of any community so far as this measure is concerned. My esteemed friend, Mr. Jitendralal Bannerjee, declared yesterday that the Government were very kind to the zamindars because they had reduced their share of taxation. But I may say that the Government in this matter has neither been generous nor just either to the zamindars or to the tenants. Sir, cess is going to be realised under the Cess Act; and the Cess Act does not recognise any caste, creed, community or class. The word "landlord" does not mean only rich zamindars like my friend the Raja Bahadur of Nashipur or like yourself. It also includes the class of landlords who are small tenure-holders. When the Bengal Tenancy Act was passed in 1885 there were about 7 lakhs of these tenure-holders in Bengal, Behar and Orissa but their number is now about 50 lakhs in Bengal alone. In the course of 50 years the number of tenure-holders has reached this

appalling figure! Many people who were assessed as tenants or cultivating raiyats during a previous revaluation of cesses have now been assessed as tenure-holders. Sir, the Cess Act is a wonderful law, it has elevated many poor tillers of the soil to the position of tenure-holders. Here I hold in my hand a copy of the cess revaluation roll of the district of Pabna. I am sure most of my friends here are familiar with the report of distress in Pabna because of the recent revaluation of cesses there. A tenure-holder before the revaluation was paying 5 annas 6 pies as cess; and would you believe it that under the revaluation he has got to pay a cess of Rs. 9-10-9 now, and this is not an isolated instance. I can quote numerous cases like these and give you the number of tauzies and the number of settlement khatians, the number on the revaluation roll and every particular. I shall cite another instance. Here I hold in my hand an abstract from the cess revaluation roll of Hooghly. There have been cases in which the cess has been increased from Rs. 2-1-0 to Rs. 6-3-0 and so on and so forth. Innumerable cases like these can be cited to show what a dangerous process is that cess revaluation. The landlord must find out the money as the Government must be paid, no matter whether he can realise it from the tenants or not and it may be remembered that the landlord is not always a rich man. The land revenue of Bengal to-day amounts to two crores 15 lakhs from the permanently settled area and the cess is Rs. 83 lakhs, that is to say that the total Government demand from the land is Rs. 3 crores, and if this Bill is placed on the Statute Book it will raise the demand by one crore more. The total burden on land will be raised from 3 to 4 crores, that is by 33 per cent. There are members in this Council who belong to the city of Calcutta and I ask them in all seriousness to realise what would be the case if the consolidated municipal rates in Calcutta is increased to-day from 19½ per cent. to 30 per cent. The same will be the result if this Bill is passed into law. The zamindars of Bengal do not enjoy powers under the Public Demands Recovery Act to realise their dues from the tenants. They have no Cess Deputy Collectors to overawe the tenants and they have got to pay regularly to Government treasury the revenue and the cesses. All these things should be carefully taken into consideration before we vote for this Bill. I would suggest that instead of this indirect taxation there should be a direct taxation like the Chaukidari Tax. We are playing a very dangerous game, and by one stroke of the pen we are going to raise the total demand from agricultural properties by 33 per cent. We must consider all these points thoroughly and in all its minute details, and then determine our line of action.

**Mr. P. BANERJEE** The name of the Bill introduced by the Hon'ble Mr. McAlpin is the Bengal (Rural) Primary Education Bill. Although the name is so charmingly attractive it is my misfortune that I have

to oppose the Bill in toto. The Bill has been introduced with a particular motive and not with the purpose of imparting education in rural areas. It has been stated that it will provide free and compulsory primary education in the rural areas. I hope I shall not be misunderstood when I oppose this Bill. I do admit that we want free and primary education but we want education that should not only be free to the boys but should also be free to the guardians at the same time and that it must be free from official control.

4 p.m.

The primary object of education introduced by Government in this country can be gathered from a study of the history of the last century, when there was a great discussion about the introduction of English education in this land. There was a great divergence of opinion on this question, and though Mr. Macaulay supported the introduction of English education in this country, but from his memorable despatch we find that he wanted not to impart real education to the people of this country, because he said that—"We are at present a board for printing books which are of less value than the paper on which they are printed was when it was blank, and for giving artificial encouragement to absurd history, absurd metaphysics, absurd physics, and absurd theology." That was the real intention behind the imparting of English education in this country a century ago. We also find from history that Mr. Macaulay and his friends wanted to create in this land a separate caste—a separate class—that would serve as a buffer between the rulers and the millions over whom they ruled. That was the object at one time. Mr. Macaulay thought that if English education could be properly imparted to the people of this country, then within 30 years they would forget their ideals, their idolatry, and would become Christians.

Then, Sir, we find that before the British came to this country there were 80,000 village schools in Bengal, i.e., one school for a population of 400. After a century of British rule we find that only 7 per cent. of the population are literate. This is the result of the education that was introduced a century ago. Since the passing of the Local Self-Government Act in Bengal, primary education has been entrusted to local bodies, and in most cases the non-official chairmen of local bodies have changed the curriculum to suit the children of the soil, so that they might be imbued with some national consciousness. At present the majority of the people are illiterate. With the advent of the British in this country the village system was swept away, and with it the means of imparting primary education to children. The village system of Government enabled the children at least to learn to read and write. We now want an education which is conducive to the welfare of the people of this country.

Sir, Government now find that the education that is imparted under the ~~egis~~ of local boards is beyond their control—

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** What about the Bill, Mr. Banerji? (Laughter.)

**Mr. P. BANERJI:** I am coming to that.

Government want to bring this education under their control and authority, and that is the object behind this Bill.

Sir, the constituency which I have the honour to represent has a population of about 5 lakhs, and 90 per cent. of this population are illiterate peasants. They are already over-burdened with taxes, and they have told me that they cannot pay any more taxes. They have told me: "We do not want this sort of primary education, as we cannot pay any more taxes. With the taxes already on us, it is impossible for us to keep our body and soul together and we are starving. It is impossible for us to pay any more taxation, even for such a good thing as education for our children."

It has been suggested by some of my zamindar friends on the other side that the taxation of one pice is even too much for them, while the taxation of four pice suggested for the tenants is not much, inasmuch as zamindars have to pay other taxes. I want to point out to this House that the major portion of the tax will be realised from the cultivators, who are already over-burdened with taxation. Then there is another difficulty, viz., that the zamindars while realizing the one anna to be paid by the tenant will try to throw their share of one pice also on to the tenant by illegal ways. I do not say that every zamindar will do this, but there is a natural apprehension in the minds of the tenants that many zamindars will extort from the tenants the zamindar's share of the tax in an unlawful manner. Their gomosthas will be instructed to realise the additional one pice from the tenants by some means or other. The tenants further fear that they will not only have to pay the zamindar's share of the tax, but also additional charges for collection. This apprehension on their part is not entirely groundless, and it is one of the reasons why they refuse to pay any tax whatsoever for this purpose.

Sir, Government put forward the plea that they were looking to the interests of the tenants when they introduced the Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill last year, but it has not improved the lot of the tenants,—in fact it has proved to be a tenant-killing Bill. In the present case, also, they have come forward with the plea that this Bill is for the education of the people of the rural areas, but it is really an education-killing Bill. I, therefore, warn Government

against the time when the people will rise in mass against them and refuse to pay any taxation whatsoever, and when arguments and persuasion would be of no avail. I appeal to the members of this House to reject this Bill. If that is not possible, they should at least refer it to a Select Committee, where it could be considered and re-examined.

With these words, Sir, I oppose the motion.

**Mr. A. F. RAHMAN:** Mr. President, Sir, I do not pretend that speaking at this stage will in any way influence the decision of the House, because in matters like this decisions are made beforehand outside the House. I have been listening to the debate that has been going on since yesterday, and I speak because I am greatly bewildered by the attitude that some members have taken up over this Bill. Yesterday, it was said that Government had been guilty of culpable negligence in delaying the introduction of this Bill in this House, but all the arguments that have been advanced by the critics of Government plead for delay in the consideration of this Bill. Each time a Primary Education Bill is brought before the House, objections are raised, it is referred to a Select Committee, minutes of dissent are written, and the task of evolving something tangible out of the chaos becomes as difficult as ever. The labour of Government for about a year is lost, and at the end we are content to refer the Bill back again to a Select Committee or to have it re-published for eliciting public opinion. The suspicion remains in my mind, Sir, that we do not wish to tackle the question: In fact, we want to shelve it.

Sir, I am not speaking as an expert on this question, because I have been told that an expert is one who knows less and less of more and more, and, from that point of view, it is an honour which the Government must share with the critics of the Bill. I speak as a layman, because I have been asking myself this question: "What is it that we have been wanting so long?" Do we or do we not desire primary education for the masses of Bengal? Now, that we have got the verdict of the public over this question—and which verdict has been so often repeated—the critics of this Bill urge that it is a measure which has not received the approval of the public.

Sir, if it has been criminal negligence on the part of Government in delaying the introduction of this Bill, then all I can say is that the attitude that has been displayed by some members is criminal negligence amounting to "slaughter." To me it seems, after listening to the debates yesterday and to-day, that two vital objections have been taken to this Bill. The first objection seems to be that the principle of this Bill, or rather the preamble, does not go far enough. The critics of the Bill would like that Government should at once

declare for free compulsory universal primary education in Bengal. I admit, Sir, that I am in sympathy with this argument. I should have liked very much that Government could have seen their way to adopt the wording of the Bombay Act. Even if Government have failed to go as far as the critics would wish, does it in any way take away the merit of the provisional scheme that has been submitted to this House, which proposes to educate all the boys in Bengal within 7 years? Sir, I think that on this ground alone we ought to support this measure.

4-15 p.m.

The objection seems to me that it does not go far enough, that it is only a step towards universal education. To throw out a measure because it does not usher in the millennium is rather peevish, and it rather savours of an attitude to postpone the evil day. It is the first step that really counts. Surely, if we are striving for a goal, we cannot object to a beginning being made. In the scheme that has been circulated by the department, there is abundant evidence that every effort has been made to meet public opinion for universal primary education within a reasonable length of time. If there are limitations and imperfections these have been imposed by the limitation of funds. From the amendments that have been tabled, it is clear that the House expects that the scheme would be in full working order within a reasonable span of time say 7 or 8 years. That is as it should be. Nobody expects that a vast and complex attempt to educate the children of a whole province would be workable in a day or in a year. Time must be allowed, and if that is conceded, within 7 years Bengal will have all her boys receiving instruction in free primary schools. So far as girls are concerned, 150 per cent. more will be receiving education; here social customs and traditions of a community will have to be considered, but I am confident that within that time the desire for female education will be effective and complete. No more effective or completer scheme has come forward and a Select Committee that laboured to hammer out an acceptable Bill, after considering all things, gave their benediction to this scheme, and on the basis of this it worked. There may be and there is bound to be honest difference of opinion about the operation of the scheme, about the machinery proposed, about incidental details, but these may be discussed on the floor of this House. That is certainly not a sufficient reason for shelving the Bill either by circulating it or referring it again to a Select Committee. The co-ordination of public opinion and the evolution of something tangible from minutes of dissent would relegate primary education to oblivion. Such steps are taken either when the House is not clear whether the public want a particular measure or when it has not made up its mind about the

provisions. On both these issues the verdict has been given and I do not think any useful purpose can now be served by shirking the consideration of this Bill.

Another objection to this Bill is the incidence of taxation necessary to carry out the scheme, and I think I am right in saying that an influential section is opposed to any fresh tax being imposed. Too often we have the courage of the conviction of others. Much may be said against Government for the method it has proposed for raising the necessary funds and ignoring the recommendation of the Select Committee on this particular point alone. I am not sure if it has not alienated the sympathies of those who would have sacrificed much to see the measure carried through, but the proper place to force these recommendations on a reluctant Government is the floor of this House and at the proper time they will be urged, but the main position is perfectly clear. Nobody ever believes that the ordinary revenue of this province can finance a scheme of this magnitude. If we are genuine about our desire for free primary education, we must find the necessary funds and at a very modest reckoning, 1 crore of rupees. If we have the faintest hope that somebody will come to our rescue, or some other agency will save us from an unpleasant duty, we ought to retire from the arena of public life. The fact has to be faced squarely that, for the present at least, fresh taxation would be necessary. If at any future period this becomes unnecessary, is there any question that legislators would not be quick to grasp the chance? The source that has been proposed is the result of anxious and careful thought; if any alternative capable of yielding as much and immediately is suggested, the House would welcome it.

I suppose this is one of the biggest steps towards nation-building, and if this measure is passed it would be a golden achievement in an otherwise barren record of public activity. From that point of view a fair chance at least ought to be given to this Bill. It has taken too long to come before us; everybody has professed love for the vision but practically everybody has been inhospitable to the material form. Such an attitude would mean our inability to face really supreme issues. There must be room for a variety of opinions on some of the clauses of the Bill, and those that are a little nervous about the passage of the Bill would be prepared to concede much for the sake of the ultimate good. But any attempt to shelve the question indefinitely and lose sight of it in the frenzied attempts at constitution-making in the near future would be resisted; no convincing reason exists for circulating the measure, or referring it again to a Select Committee. A concrete proposal after years of preparation and embodying the public demand is before the House; may be, it is full of tangles but these ought to be straitened out on the floor of the

Legislative Council. It would be impolitic to delay its consideration any longer, and it would be disloyalty to the faith of the electorate in its representatives.

**Mr. RANJIT PAL CHOUDHURI:** Sir, I do not support this Bill and that is for its obvious odious features. The Bengal (Rural) Primary Education Bill as it is before the Council ought not to get the support of the House. But the attitude would have been different had the Bill been directed towards free and compulsory education and the taxation had been shared by all classes alike. I ought to say that the costs for the extension of primary education should not be met by such a taxation of a discriminating character. Fairness would rather demand that such a tax should fall equally on all those whose children the measure was contemplated to benefit directly. But to assess this cess so that the burden should fall more heavily on the land-owning class to the exclusion of people who make huge profits from trade, commerce and money-lending in rural areas is nothing but unfair and unjust, specially in view of the fact that zamindars' sons and wards will not be solely benefited by that measure. Again, if it is said that only the landlords by reason of their high social standing are in duty bound to foster the spread of such education for the benefit of their tenantry such presumption would be ungenerous. Matters might have assumed a different aspect when their relations with the tenants were friendly and cordial and when they have had enough to give and spare. But in these days of stress and strain—when the zamindars themselves are no better than mere tax-collectors, when subinfeudation is the order of the day, when their relations with their tenants have been rendered far from pleasant by more than one agency, when they are subject to a lot of indirect taxation besides the peremptory Government dues, when their own financial condition is far from easy and when they are occasionally worried by a number of calls on their private generosity—it would be an act of injustice to seek to overburden this section of the people with the additional cess and that for carrying out a measure in the benefits of which they come in only remotely. The burden becomes still more odious when it is observed that only the zamindars are specially picked out therefor for the main share of the liability to the entire exclusion of merchants, traders and shopkeepers, bankers and money-lenders. One would naturally be led to think in face of such a fact that perhaps the object of such wilful exemption is that the latter classes, among whom there are also non-Indians, may not be affected in any way, lest there should be a storm of agitation from those quarters. Perhaps it has been thought that the incidence of the taxation should fall mostly on the land-owning class because they are in a minority and there are no foreigners among the lot, specially when they have been weaned from public sympathy obviously because of their only

sin of owning lands either by heredity or by title. But to make the cess fair and impartial the imposition thereof should befall on all classes alike and, even then, an easy rate should be assessed. The Local Government like that of Bombay and Madras should also contribute its due share towards the costs.

Sir, I cannot forbear pointing out incidentally in this connection that the educated middle-class—one of the two potential factors that infuse our body-politic with the vital sap—has been slowly but surely ruinously affected during the last nine years by the ingeniously devised economic pressure of the Meston Award over which there has been so much shedding of crocodile tears from interested quarters. The landed aristocracy—the other powerful factor—was next to be affected in order to complete the circle for the subversion of the two coalescing forces. Now no ignoring the fact that the land-owning class has also been hard hit by the latest tenancy enactments. This taxation over the Bengal (Rural) Primary Education Bill is calculated to add to the already many wrongs to which that class has already been subjected. Indeed landed aristocracy, notwithstanding all these untoward circumstances, have hitherto stood firmly by the standard of loyalty, but I fear they may have to break away eventually if too much such stress is put upon them indirectly.

Thus I cannot be a party to such a measure as discriminates class from class and burdens indirectly a minority class with an odious cess to the exclusion of other classes who are also rich and able enough to bear the burden and who should also be made to shoulder the liability. It will not do to come to a hasty decision in a matter like this. The subject should again be referred to a Select Committee and public opinion has also to be invited before we, their representatives, can commit ourselves in any way. Besides, this Bill is apt to leave room for still further similar taxation in future if free and compulsory education is ever decided upon if its odious features are not opposed betimes. The Local Government is to give an undertaking to the House as to what proportion of the cost they would shoulder themselves. Again the control of the finance and administration of that education should be entirely vested in the people themselves, i.e., in the local bodies, including the realisation of taxes.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** Before I adjourn the Council for prayers I should like to inform the House that when we reassemble I will take up the amendments. It is quite fair that those members who have given notices of amendments should be given a chance to move their amendments.

[At 4.30 p.m. the Council was adjourned for prayers and it reassembled at 4.45 p.m.]

The following amendment was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

**Srijut TARAKNATH MUKERJEA** to move, by way of amendment, that the Bill and the Report of the Select Committee on the previous Bill on the subject be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion by the 15th November, 1929.

**Mr. BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** I formally move, by way of amendment, that the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon, before 1st November, 1929.

**Maulvi ABUL KASEM:** I rise to oppose the motion for the circulation of the Bill for eliciting opinion. I do not want to intrude upon the time and patience of the House but I feel that I shall not be justified in recording a silent vote on this question.

As regards the motion itself I have only to say that we have already got a large volume of opinion; opinion in plenty and to spare; opinions good, bad and indifferent. Therefore it is absolutely unnecessary to try to get further opinions. I submit that if this motion is carried the result will be that the consideration of a Bill for the introduction of primary education will be indefinitely postponed. It has been postponed already for a pretty long time on account of the tardiness of Government, and secondly, though in a smaller measure, on account of our own conduct. It will be absolutely wrong to cause further delay by sending this Bill for eliciting public opinion.

I am surprised, Sir, that this motion has been seriously made because the mover himself was a member of the Select Committee that considered this Bill during the last Council. He had in his possession a very large volume of opinion recorded by public bodies as well as by individuals, and as an active member of that Committee he was fully aware of them and must have studied them all. What further information he wants I cannot say. Various criticisms have been passed on the provisions of the Bill. I am not one of those who admire either the draftsmanship or the statesmanship which is responsible for this Bill; but at the same time, I think, that we ought to do our best to introduce free compulsory and universal primary education as early as possible.

On the one hand we have a Government who have already neglected their duty and I might say their responsibility in this matter so long. No measure, at any rate no legislative measure, can be said to be perfect; neither is any measure perfect or of a nature that will satisfy all sections of the people. It must, in the nature of things, be defective and this Bill is no exception to the general rule.

I am personally interested in this Bill, because I do not happen to be isolated like my friend Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy; I have to pay rent to my landlord and I also realise a few pence from my tenants. What is more, Sir, I am a rural man, and what is the most important of all, I represent a rural area. Thus I am much interested in it. It has been said that our friend from Mymensingh is willing to pay 4 pice in the rupee or even 5 pice for primary education. That signifies not that there is the least justification for this mode of taxation of the tenantry, but that he is so anxious for the introduction of primary education that he is prepared to make a sacrifice and pay anything. If anything, it does credit to his feelings and patriotism. It has been said that this measure might be delayed till the financial position of the Government of Bengal improved; I submit that the financial position of no Government can ever improve unless and until members of the administration try to improve it. It is in their hands to make a prosperous or a deficit budget, and if they curtail unnecessary expenses on their expensive departments there will be sufficient money for the necessary demands. We have been told that money is not forthcoming from the Government purse for the expansion and extension of free and compulsory education. I submit that Government's primary duty, as my friend Mr. J. L. Bannerjee said yesterday, is to provide for universal primary education and I submit that it is no part of a Government's business to maintain or pay for higher or university education. The policy of Government in this country has always been to build from the top. They spend their energy and resources and their time upon the advancement of higher education. So far as it goes, it is good but this has been done at the cost of primary education. They have paid very little attention to people in the rural areas but the time has come when they should realise their responsibility in this matter and come forward with generous help for the introduction of this measure. The measure, as it is at present drafted, is in many points defective and I think that the time for consideration of these defective points is when we discuss it clause by clause.

About the general principles of the Bill I want with your permission to make one observation about the incidence of taxation. We in the Select Committee after a great deal of deliberation came to a sort of compromise of a two and three pice basis, but I find that the Government of Bengal have in their wisdom overruled that recommendation of the Select Committee in the present Bill. I quite admire the tender feelings of the Members of Government for the land-holding classes but I submit that it is the masses, the tenantry of Bengal, who are the stronghold of the province and their interests should be the primary concern of Government. My friend Mr. Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy has given the House certain facts and figures. He

says that the total land revenue from the permanently settled districts of Bengal comes to 2 crores 15 lakhs but the roads and public works cesses come to about 8 lakhs 31 thousand and it may go up. For another crore a demand may be made to the land-holding classes. I submit that the total rent roll of Bengal, that is, the rent realised from the tenants of Bengal comes to about 18 crores and out of this the revenue which goes to the public purse is only 2 crores and 15 lakhs. Now, where does the balance go? I beg to submit that the zamindars make a profit of about 15 crores and if they are asked to pay a share of this profit for primary education it is neither unjust nor unfair.

Sir, we are told although not in so many words, but indirectly, as to why a particular class should pay for the education of children who do not belong to that class, and why should the zamindars, the merchants or professional men, etc., be called upon to pay for the education of day labourers or cultivators and other raiyats? My submission is that so long as the poor cultivators and day labourers have to pay for the higher education of the middle and higher classes, they can demand and have a right to demand this from them.

I hope, Sir, that Government in their turn will not be so unreasonable as to insist upon this Bill being passed as it is. If that be the attitude they are going to adopt, then I am afraid the prospect of the Bill becoming law is not very bright and in that case they would be taking a very serious responsibility on themselves. On the other hand care should be taken that it may not be said that Government wanted to introduce free and compulsory education but that the legislature threw out the legislative measure. If, however, Government insist on the present provisions of the Bill without any reasonable compromise I submit the responsibility for the wreckage of the Bill will lie on the Members of Government and not on this House.

Various amendments numbering about 380 have been tabled and I submit that shows clearly that there are many defects in the Bill as it stands. But I hope and trust that good sense will prevail and that Government will be induced to make reasonable and necessary changes. Sir, I am not one of those who exercise their brain and ingenuity to shirk responsibility by bringing forward motions which would have the effect of delaying the introduction of free and compulsory primary education in this province. I am one of those and I am willing to concede to Government the necessity of the taxation proposal, but I should like that some measure should be passed and brought into operation immediately.

It has been said, Sir, that the preamble is defective and so it is. And I do not see any reason why it should not be allowed to be improved. Again, it has been said that compulsory education cannot be introduced for some time owing to want of trained teachers. Sir,

I have every respect for our trained teachers. I know they are very good people and that they are very efficient instructors, but I see no reason why we should make a fetish of them. I believe there are a large number of members in this House who have been taught and learnt under teachers who were not trained teachers but ordinary educated men, and I believe they were good enough in those days. (Here the member reached the time limit).

With these words I oppose the motion for circulation.

**Mr. BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** I beg to withdraw the motion which I have moved.

The following motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

“That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon before 1st November, 1929.”

5 p.m.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** Motions standing in the names of Babu Manmatha Nath Roy, Rai Satyendra Nath Roy Choudhuri Bahadur, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray are more or less identical. I specially selected the motion of Mr. Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy because it gives us the longest period for eliciting opinion on the Bill, and having regard to the fact that this motion has been withdrawn, I think the others need not be moved.

The following motions were therefore not moved:—

**Babu MANMATHA NATH ROY** to move by way of amendment that the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon by the 31st October, 1929.

**Rai SATYENDRA NATH ROY CHOUDHURI Bahadur** to move by way of amendment that the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon before the 30th October, 1929.

**Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY** to move by way of amendment that the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon before 15th October, 1929.

The following motion was called but not moved:—

**Babu MANMATHA NATH ROY** to move by way of amendment that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of—

- (1) The Hon'ble Member in charge of the Education Department,
- (2) Mr. A. J. Dash,

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- (3) Mr. H. E. Stapleton,
- (4) Dr. W. A. Jenkins,
- (5) Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose,
- (6) Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea,
- (7) Babu Bejoy Krishna Bose,
- (8) Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy,
- (9) Mr. Barada Prasanna Pain,
- (10) Mr. J. M. Sen Gupta,
- (11) Babu Jitendralal Bannerjee,
- (12) Mr. Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy,
- (13) Mr. Syamaprosad Mookerjee,
- (14) Babu Naliniranjan Sarker,
- (15) Srijut Taraknath Mukerjea,
- (16) Babu Amarendra Nath Ghose,
- (17) Mr. D. N. Roy,
- (18) Maulvi Abdul Karim,
- (19) Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy,
- (20) Maulvi Shamsuddin Ahmed,
- (21) Maulvi Abul Kasem,
- (22) Khan Bahadur Maulvi Azizul Haque,
- (23) Maulvi Syed Nausher Ali,
- (24) Mr. A. K. Fazl-ul Huq, and
- (25) the mover,

with instructions to submit their report by the 31st October, 1929, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a quorum shall be nine.

**Mr. NALINIRANJAN SARKER:** I move by way of amendment that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of—

- (1) The Hon'ble Member in charge of Education Department,
- (2) Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose,
- (3) Babu Surendra Mohan Moitra,
- (4) Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea,
- (5) Mr. Kiran Sankar Roy,
- (6) Babu Amarendra Nath Ghose,
- (7) Babu Saral Kumar Dutt,
- (8) Kazi Emdadul Hoque,

- (9) Mr. Raszur Rahman Khan,
- (10) Maulvi Shamsuddin Ahmed,
- (11) Khan Bahadur Maulvi Azizul Haque,
- (12) Maulvi Abdul Karim,
- (13) Mr. A. F. Rahman,
- (14) Khan Bahadur Maulvi Alimuzzaman Chaudhuri,
- (15) Mr. W. L. Travers,
- (16) Mr. J. Campbell-Forrester,
- (17) Kumar Shil Shekhareswar Ray,
- (18) Mr. Syamaprosad Mookerjee,
- (19) Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy,
- (20) Babu Akhil Chandra Datta,
- (21) Babu Bejoy Krishna Bose, and
- (22) myself,

with instructions to submit their report in time for its presentation at the November session of the Council, and to keep particularly in view the desirability of making primary education compulsory in the province within a definite period, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a quorum shall be ten.

In exercising my power under the rules of this House to move an amendment to the motion of the Hon'ble Member in charge, I would have felt lacking in my duty had I done so without giving to the question under discussion my most earnest and careful consideration. I move this amendment, therefore, in no light mood, and with a full sense of responsibility.

I realise that the operation of compulsory universal primary education is the most important factor in the political economic, and social uplift of our countrymen. We have launched a fight for freedom---freedom from foreign domination, freedom from ex-plloitation by capitalists. In fact, it is the grim fight of the suffering weak with the unmerciful strong in every sphere. Such fight can never be efficiently carried on if the masses are not literate. They cannot be taught to be stronger, nor can they resist oppression till they can realise their position through learning of facts by the usual methods of publicity and then express themselves in the same way. Moreover, the continuance of such battle involves improved economic conditions. This can be largely effected by primary education. The Agriculture Department has estimated for instance, that the agriculturists of the province could easily earn another 8 crores of rupees a year without further capital outlay, if they could only understand the utility

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of growing selected varieties of jute and paddy. Then again with the ability to read, health and sanitation propaganda will be rendered more efficacious. The population will be able to protect themselves from epidemics, and the many diseases which beset them at present.

But while I realise this, I realise also that the Bill must enable us to attain our real object. This the present Bill will not enable us to do. It has many defects. I need not elaborate them. I need only say that it is half-hearted, dilatory, and inadequate. The most important of these defects is that the control and initiative of our education will rest with the Government. With Government initiative, it is my considered opinion that it will not bring about even the merest "expansion" as contemplated in the preamble, not to speak of universalisation of primary education within a reasonable period. And with such unlimited control in the hands of an alien and irresponsible Government it will be impossible for us to obtain the kind of education which will fit the masses for the struggle before them—the struggle for freedom which I have already emphasised. Even in a free country, one of the greatest of philosophers has said that Government control in education "aids to restrain, rather than develop, the energies of men." How much more does this truth apply to a subject country like ours, a country striving against vested interests to attain its proper place in the world's nations. By this Bill the powers relating both to polity and to general control are reserved to the Government, who alone are to hold all the strings. The process of applying these powers have been perfected by a team of officials consisting of the Director of Public Instruction, the Commissioner, and the Magistrate. The Inspector-General of Police and the Deputy Inspector-General of the C. I. D. have been left out either as a rare case of oversight, or perhaps because their functions will be exercised in other ways.

Sir, if you want an example of the futility of official initiative and control in education, the working of the Bombay and Madras Governments Acts enables me to give you one in spite of the eulogy of our hon'ble friend Mr J. L. Bannerjee yesterday. The Bombay Act made it the declared policy of Government that universal free, and compulsory primary education should be reached by a definite programme of progressive expansion within a reasonable period not exceeding ten years. This was the declared policy. The declared result after seven or eight years' working as expressed in the resolution in the review of the work during the years 1925-26 was as follows:—

"Compulsory education had so far been introduced in six municipal areas, viz., Bombay City, Bandra, Satara, Dhulia, Surati and Byadgi."

"The expansion of primary education under the Primary Education Act has unfortunately been hampered by lack of the necessary funds

with Government who have recently been obliged to issue a Press Note warning local authorities that unless there is expansion in the public revenues in the near future schemes for expansion of primary education whether on a voluntary or compulsory basis, which may be submitted by them for sanction, will inevitably be held up till times improve. Government, however, see no reason why local authorities who have increased their revenues by additional local taxation should not undertake scheme of expansion within their own resources even though the two-third contribution from Government laid down under the Primary Education Act may not be forthcoming either now or in the immediate future. Local authorities who take the initiative in starting schemes of their own may rest assured that as soon as their financial position improves, Government will not fail to come to their assistance." The case of Madras is no better.

Sir, Mr. Bannerjee has also described the Bill, with more vigour than truth justifies, as "ill-conceived, ill-cooked, and ill-digested." I do not agree. The Bill may be ill-conceived, but from the chef's point of view it has been exceedingly well-cooked, though it has not yet been digested. As for its being ill-conceived, of which there is no doubt, it is well-known that one cook too many, in fact my friend himself, was responsible for the conception of the Central Board being merely advisory and not executive, a provision wholly against the fundamental principle of the scheme of primary education. The intention of Government in putting this Bill before the House seems to have been to hold before the public gaze a picture of their solicitude for the cultural uplift of the people, but that picture has shown more than it was painted to show—it has brought out its real motive. It is a cover for the criminal neglect of one of the most vital functions of the State—a function which more than sixty years ago caused the then Governor-General to say that he could not "bear any longer the reproach that almost nothing has been done for the education of the people of Bengal." But, Sir, the British are a manly race. His Excellency and his successors have managed to bear the pain since then with commendable Christian fortitude. Indeed, the finances for the project under the Bill have been so carefully arranged that the largest share of the burden has been shifted on to the people, though Government still holds the reins. The State contribution has been proposed to be limited to the present grant—and even this insignificant grant has not been given a statutory sanction. Some of my friends on this side have emphasised the necessity of a larger share of the expenses being borne by Government, who should earmark a sum—say 75 lakhs or a crore—towards the cost of primary education. But I realise the difficulties of Government. I would consequently be satisfied with a compromise if such compromise prescribes in the Bill a statutory minimum contribution on the basis of their present expenditure on primary education supplemented by an annual grant

provided for in the yearly budget, according to its resources. This should not be unusually difficult. I have not the least doubt that if Government could, for example, restrain the enthusiasm of Mr. Adams Williams, the greatest deltaic engineer in the world, for wasting public money in productively unproductive schemes, and then their own partiality for extravagant expenditure on bricks and mortar, they could easily contribute at least 50 lakhs a year to the cause of primary education. It is their duty, for as the United States Bureau of Education has put it, "to educate all its people without exception is both the duty and the right of democracy. If these people have been deprived of educational opportunities in their youth, it is the duty of the nation to extend this blessing to them now in their years of maturity; if these people have neglected their earlier opportunities, democracy has the right to demand that they correct the deficiency with public assistance at once."

Sir, I will not weary the House with the further defects of the Bill. It is defective, but in the light of the amendments you have allowed, I feel that it can at least be made workable for making a good beginning, though under the limitations imposed by the present system it cannot be made ideal. This is why I want to send the Bill to a Select Committee.

It may be said, Sir, that the defects can be remedied by proposing amendments, clause by clause, on the floor of this House. I submit in reply that though this course is open to me, and though I have provided for it, the Bill is so fundamentally defective in principle and *format* that such amendments will not do much more than patch up a Bill which is hardly worth the trouble of patching up. Serious changes, considered changes, must be made, and they can only be made in the calm, collected and comparatively favourable atmosphere found in the meetings of Select Committee.

Moreover, both on the grounds of merit and technicality the Bill should be recommitted to a Select Committee. True it has already had the so-called approval of a Select Committee, but the Bill before the House is not the Bill which was discussed and settled in the last Committee. It has been modified and recast to suit the ends of Government, and the House is practically called upon to vote on a new Bill, on the assumption of its previous settlement by a Select Committee. But apart from all that, the Bill should be recommitted to a Select Committee on the grounds of merit alone, for the majority of the members who signed the report, signed it subject to serious notes of dissent. In fact, Sir, it would be difficult to find a page of names more conspicuously starred. Any Government would have felt ashamed to allow such a document—almost an insult to the House—to see the light of day, but in Bengal, Sir, sensitiveness is not one of the weaknesses of the Government.

Therefore, Sir, it is on both moral and technical grounds that I move that this Bill be committed to a Select Committee, consisting of the members mentioned in my amendment.

Sir, I resume my seat, feeling that no member—at least no non-official member—will seriously oppose this amendment.

5-15 p.m.

**Dr. KUMUD SANKAR RAY:** Sir, I ask for permission to move my amendment at short notice as I would like to include certain more names, viz., Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq, Maulvi Syed Majid Baksh, Mr. Jitendralal Bannerjee—

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** Those are not the names in my list here.

**Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA:** May I explain? We have consulted the different groups in this House and there seems to be a general agreement amongst most of the parties in this House, except of course the Government, that the Bill should go to the Select Committee. On that basis we are putting in further names, and I submit that as there is a general agreement you should give permission to include further names.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** I have no objection to the short notice amendment but it must be before me.

**The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McALPIN:** May I ask how the amendments are to be taken?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** I will first put the amendments which are amendments to the original amendment; and if these are carried I will put this list of new names which I have with me, along with the names suggested in the main amendment.

**The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McALPIN:** My question really was whether there would be one amendment first as to whether there should be reference to the Select Committee without any names.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** I have no objection to divide the amendment if the mover thereof has no objection. But I think it makes very little difference whether I split it up or take it as a whole. I am, however, willing to accept your suggestion provided that the mover has no objection.

**Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ:** On a point of order, Sir. It appears to me that there are two questions involved. The first is whether in the opinion of the House the Bill should go to the Select Committee at all. If the answer to that be in the affirmative, then I propose that we should be granted some time to arrange about the personnel. As at present—

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** It is not a point of order, Mr. Huq.

**Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER:** Sir, according to the Rules of Procedure I have got to get previous permission of those members whose names I have suggested. I have not yet received the permission of Sir Jadunath Sarkar and Mr. Surendra Nath Law. Therefore I did not mention their names when I moved my amendment.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** The point raised by the Hon'ble Mr. McAlpin was whether I should split up the amendment or put it as a whole. Mr. Sarker, do you wish to have your amendment put as a whole or as suggested by the Hon'ble Mr. McAlpin?

**Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER:** I should like to put my amendment as it stands.

**Dr. KUMUD SANKAR RAY:** I move by way of amendment to motion of Babu Naliniranjan Sarker that after the name "Babu Bejoy Krishna Bose" the following names be inserted, namely:—

Mr. A. K. Fazl-ul Huq, Maulvi Syed Majid Baksh, Maulvi Abdul Hamid Shah, Babu Jitendralal Bannerjee, Mr. Jogesh Chandra Gupta, Babu Manmatha Nath Roy, Dr. Kumud Sankar Ray, Srijut Taraknath Mukerjea, Dr. J. M. Das Gupta, Mr. Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy, Mr. J. M. Sen, Dr. W. A. Jenkins, Mr. A. J. Dash, Babu Baroda Prasanna Pain, Babu Santosh Kumar Basu, Maulvi Nurul Absar Choudhuri, Maulvi Ashrafuddin Chaudhuri, Mr. P. N. Guha, Maulvi Syed Jalaluddin Hashemy, Mr. Altaf Ali, Maulvi Muhammad Basiruddin, Mr. A. F. M. Abdur Rahman, Maulvi Muhammad Fazlullah.

**Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA:** Mr. President, Sir, I was expecting during the course of the debate on this question yesterday and also to-day that at least one member of this House would rise to support the motion of the Hon'ble Member in charge of this Bill. I have been disappointed. It is necessary, Sir, that at the end of the debate on the motion for the consideration of this Bill and while the amendments

to that motion to be referred to the Select Committee are considered that I should make the position of the Congress party perfectly clear, and secondly, that I should make a final appeal to the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill that he should withdraw the Bill as it stands to-day and reintroduce a new Bill in accordance with the public opinion of the country expressed in this Council. I wonder, Sir, if this Bill was really founded on strong and invincible principles. If so, how was it that not a single member that I heard either from the Government benches or from the non-official benches rise up and speak in favour of it? He knows his position. He realises the difficulties of meeting the wishes of the people. Sir, I know that the Government Member in charge of this Bill will not respond to the appeal that I have made. But I have to make the position of my party very clear. Most of the members of my party have declared in most clear terms that they are all opposed to the principles of the Bill. Sir, I am also opposed to it. The main reasons are three. First, that the scope of the Bill is very limited. Mr. Bannerjee and other speakers have pointed out very forcibly and very clearly that under the Bombay Act we have both the urban areas and rural areas dealt with in the same piece of law. It would be a very deplorable state of affairs in the province of Bengal if we have one policy followed with regard to education in the urban areas and another policy followed by a different set of men in the rural areas, in which case there would be two kinds of children growing up most probably with perfectly different and opposite mental outlook. That is a state of affairs which no civilised country would allow on any account. If Bombay could have one law to deal with the whole province, I cannot understand why Bengal cannot have the same kind of legislation. That is the one objection to the Bill. The other two objections have been dealt with also by various members of this House. The one is with regard to the question of the control of the policy. Now, Sir, so far as this is concerned, the objection is based on very sound grounds. When the Government of this country—the English Government of this country—started giving us secondary and university education, we know what the policy behind that education was. One or two members referred to it. I would like to put it in the words of some of the well-known Englishmen of those times who have something to do with the education policy of the country. It is that fear—a fear which is based on facts—that has actuated most of us in pressing this question, viz., the power of controlling the policy of primary education should be left entirely in the hands of popularly elected Indians. We find a well-known Englishman, in the beginning of the English education in this country, said: "We must do our best to form a class who may be interpreters between us and the millions whom we govern—a class of persons Indian in blood and colour but English in taste and notions, words and intellect."

Macaulay followed it up, by sending a minute to the Parliamentary Enquiry Committee sitting for the purpose of finding out whether an occidental or an oriental form of education should be imparted in our secondary and university education. He said: "The people of this country were overburdened and the people were groaning heavily. We have at present a Board for printing books which are of less value than the paper on which it was printed for giving official encouragement to absurd history, absurd metaphysics and absurd theology." That was the deliberate policy of the few Englishmen who enunciated the policy of education in this country. What guarantee is there that that policy is not to be pursued here again. It is clear that for the last 170 years Government have been collecting taxes to such an extent that to-day we are overburdened with taxes. Of that there is not the least shadow of doubt. We are groaning under heavy taxes. It is a very well-equipped administration in every sense of the word, particularly so far as the cost of the administration is concerned; and although we are paying over 45 crores of rupees to the public revenue and out of that over 35 crores go to the India Government leaving only 10 or 11 crores for Bengal. We have got to find for every kind of work and for all kinds of services and for all kinds of efficiency in the administration leaving hardly any money for the education of the mass of the people. It is said—if you want to control the education of the people then why do you not pay for it? I know this cheap argument. Have we not paid for this costly administration? Can any civilised Government of over 170 years say—We have ruled you, we have taxed you to the utmost limit, yet we cannot bear the cost of education unless we collect a fresh tax from you.

5-30 p.m.

No Government dare say that. Even the Secretary of the Board of Education in England, Sir Arthur Briggs, said that the expenses of primary education should be borne jointly by the Government and the people. Our first objection is that a fixed percentage of the total expenditure on compulsory and free primary education should come from the general revenues of the province. That provision is not in the Bill. If Bombay, where compulsory primary education was introduced, could give 50 per cent. of the extra expenditure necessary and two-thirds of the cost in the rural areas, why cannot Bengal follow that example? This is the main objection. We do not mind to be taxed. We have been taxed over and over again, but what I do say is this: If not the whole of the expenditure, at least a good portion of it, should be borne by the permanent revenues of the State, and there should be a statutory provision in the Bill to this effect. I know that objection will be raised that you cannot introduce such a provision in the Select Committee because the Governor has not given his permission. I am not in favour of throwing out the Bill altogether. I

am in favour of giving the Government a chance, an option, either to withdraw the Bill or reintroduce it, or to refer it to a Select Committee and then get the permission of the Governor for the purpose of introducing fresh provisions and for changing some of the provisions already in the Bill.

Then, Sir, as to what the Council is to do in present circumstances. I know that no assurance is forthcoming from the Hon'ble Member that the Bill will be withdrawn: most probably he will not withdraw the measure so as to bring a fresh measure later on. The position that my party takes up to-day is that we send the Bill to the Select Committee in the hope—perhaps a forlorn hope—that certain modifications will be introduced, that certain suggestions which I have made will be accepted in the Select Committee, and that if the Bill comes back from the Select Committee with those modifications and improvements we will accept it, but if it comes back without those modifications, we of the Congress party reserve the right to ourselves to throw out the Bill at that time, if we think it necessary.

**Mr. H. E. STAPLETON:** Sir, we have twice heard a comment on this debate from the leader of the Congress party in this House, namely, that he was surprised to find that no speech was forthcoming from the Government benches in support of this Bill. Sir, I submit that hitherto nothing whatsoever has been said which requires to be replied to, and my difficulty has not been decreased by what we have just heard from Mr. Sen Gupta, the honourable leader of the Congress party. The only concrete proposals that we have had in front of us up till now are contained in a pamphlet by Mr. Naliniranjan Sarker which was placed in our hands—at least it reached me—very late last night, though possibly other members of this House may have had more opportunity of thoroughly going through this pamphlet. When I read it this morning, I was surprised to find that if the statement of Mr. Naliniranjan Sarker is to be believed that is contained in this pamphlet on page 5, it is one to which Government at all events cannot take the slightest exception. If you will permit me, Sir, I will read out the paragraph that I refer to.

"In short, we do not want an Education Act simply for display. The people of this province are to-day quite serious about primary education. We mean business. Our aim is to universalize primary education. We must therefore have a time-limit within which we must reach the goal, acting all along according to a clear-cut programme of work, for such problems do not become easier by our refusal to meet them. On the contrary, a policy of delay and postponement makes them more complicated and difficult. This time-limit for the introduction of free primary education throughout the province becomes even more urgent when we recall that, from the very start, we are going to make a levy upon the resources of the people in every

part of the Presidency. Can we take the toll without making provisions, within a reasonable time, for a school in every locality of the province? To do so would be as absurd as it would be unfair." Sir, I wish to ask the House in what way does this differ from the declared objectives of Government, as shown in this Bill. We, in the Education Department, have not to concern ourselves—we ought not to concern ourselves—unduly with the political theories of which we have heard so much this afternoon. (Interruptions). I submit, Sir, that what is wanted is a certain degree of realism. As we have to deal with the speedy education of a mass of children, we cannot possibly consider anything else but the real practical problem that is in front of us, viz., how soon can the ideal that Mr. Naliniranjan Sarker has summarized in the paragraph that I have just read out be attained. Now, Sir, it is all very well for people to get up and say that Government ought to do this, or ought to do that—that free and compulsory education ought to be introduced at once, but, Sir, I submit it is an absolute impossibility. Hence, when we were first re-considering this problem last year, after Mr. Lindsay, the originator of the Bill, had left India, we had to study the details most carefully so as to formulate a definite scheme which could be introduced and carried into effect within a reasonable time.

Now, Sir, I have noticed—and noticed with some interest—that very little reference has been made to the actual programme of work which has been circulated to members on behalf of Government. This scheme puts before the House not only the facts of the case—the actual figures and the skeleton of the problem that we have to deal with—but it gives, firstly, a scheme with which I am personally not satisfied but to which we were limited by the difficulties of finance which could, in the opinion of the educational officers who drew it up, be introduced, if we could only get a reasonable—and what we considered to be the minimum—sum of money for this purpose. This sum of money came to about 2½ crores. Now, Sir, this was the statement of the Education Department, and we still consider that this is the absolute minimum on the basis of which any legitimate and satisfactory scheme could be introduced. But, Sir, we could only, under the scheme put forward by Mr. Lindsay, estimate the amount of money that was likely to come in from the proposed cess, at about a crore altogether in the way of increased revenue, and we, therefore, had, as practical men, to devise a modified scheme, so that, by an expenditure of a total of about 1½ crores, we would be able to realize our objective within a comparatively short time. This will be found in section 3 of the note that has been circulated to the members of this House, though, as I have already stated, it has not been very much referred to by the eloquent speakers who discussed political theory rather than educational fact.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Did I indulge in political theories?

**Mr. H. E. STAPLETON:** I am open to correction, but I do not recall hearing any thing from him except political theories, in which he seemed to indulge as much as any one else.

**Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA:** Is it the privilege of only permanent English officials in this country to indulge in political theories?

**Mr. H. E. STAPLETON:** Sir, I do not wish to enter into any discussion on this—

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** Mr. Stapleton, I think such troubles will not arise if you do not take any notice of these interruptions.

**Mr. H. E. STAPLETON:** I thank you, Sir, for your advice. Henceforward I will not take any notice. What I wish to submit, Sir, is that if I am right in thinking that the acceptance of our scheme not only tacitly but in actual point by Mr. Naliniranjan Sarker in his pamphlet shows that the scheme is one which is in harmony with the desires of other prominent members of the party on my right, and if, Sir, Mr. Naliniranjan Sarker is to be accepted as somebody who can speak with authority on their behalf on educational matters, especially those arising out of this Bill, I submit that much of the discussion that we have heard yesterday and to-day is irrelevant. If we are to take the remarks that have been made in this pamphlet as conveying something which they believe could be accepted by this House, I submit, Sir, that Government have not done half the bad things that they are alleged to have done in connection with the Bill. Along with the Bill the suggestions that have been made in the Note that has been prepared and circulated to the members of this House must be referred to; because it is not so much from the Bill itself or from its dull and uninspiring clauses as from these actual proposals that have been put forward by the Education Department that you will find what can be done with the money if placed at our disposal.

Now, Sir, much has been made of the fact that sufficient money is not forthcoming, and that because we have not got sufficient money to work the scheme we should call upon the Government of India or the Local Government to supply more money, and, further, to ensure the expenditure of such money as might be obtained from these sources by means of a statutory clause in the Bill. I am a layman, Sir, not a financier, and we are governed to a very large extent by the Finance Department of the Government of Bengal. I think, Sir,

I need not dilate on the extraordinary deficiency of money in this province at the moment. But, Sir, from the point of view of the Education Department alone, I would draw your attention to the fact that we could not for one moment acquiesce in any statement that the amount of money that has been put down in the supplementary scheme will be sufficient for the proper introduction of primary education in Bengal.

5-45 p.m.

We have not only pointed out in the Note that there is a gap of about a crore of rupees, but if you turn again to Mr. Naliniranjan Sarker's pamphlet and look at the comparative statement it contains towards the end, namely, on page 32, you will see how ridiculous it would be if we dreamt of limiting the amount of money that should be spent on primary education once it is properly initiated. If you will look at the figures that are given there—if you will consult the figures given by Mr. Naliniranjan Sarker regarding a nation which is comparable in number with those of the Bengalee nation—you will find that in England there is an expenditure of about 85 crores per annum. I submit that you cannot accuse Government for one minute of blinding their eyes to what is entailed in the way of public expenditure hereafter on primary education in Bengal. We know as well as anybody else how much this Bill is going to cost if and when it becomes an Act. We merely put forward for submission to this House a concrete scheme which, I submit, is a practical one, and which will initiate primary education in this country on a scale which will not be incommensurate with the need thereof.

One point I want to refer to before I sit down. Many things have been said, especially by the leader of the party on my right, as to the whole country being behind the particular party for which he speaks. Well, I can only say that as I myself am anxious to deal with facts and not simply with educational theories, when I took up the enquiry into the question of the possibility of working this Bill, I also took every possible step to find out what the real feeling of the cultivator was. (Question!). Not only did the Minister at that time issue a circular to his Muhammadan compatriots but I also issued two other leaflets—possibly some of which have come into the hands of the members on my right—embodying the facts of the case and asking for the opinions of all who desired to give their opinions on the subject. These circulars were sent out, and the Sub-Inspectors of the Education Department were asked in the course of their tours during the following 3 or 4 months to hold meetings and to report the opinions expressed at these meetings to their Divisional Inspectors. I have here a collection of the reports I received, and I can assure the House that far from their being opposed to the introduction of

the Bill, a very large majority, if not an overwhelming majority, of the people present at the meetings that were held unanimously demanded and supported the introduction of this Bill. There was also practically no opposition to the introduction of the cess. I, therefore, claim that the statement that has been made by the members on my right that the people of Bengal are bitterly opposed to the Bill is not borne out by the facts that I have collected which, on the contrary, show that far from being opposed to the Bill, the people themselves are in favour of it.

**Mr. W. H. THOMPSON:** I believe firmly that every member, every Indian member, of this House is in favour of the principle of extending primary education in this country as quickly as possible. We non-official Europeans will vote on this matter not as representing the Chamber of Commerce or as representing any particular shade of European opinion but as citizens of Bengal and we are at one with the other members of this House in our conviction that the salvation of this country lies in the extension of primary education. I believe that most of the members of this House are in favour of the introduction of compulsory education at the earliest possible moment and there we Europeans are with them. This Bill is a Bill that has already been in the Select Committee. I submit, Sir, that I have more intelligence than the proverbial spider, and I claim and I think that this House can fairly claim to have advanced some centuries ahead of that persistent old rascal Robert Bruce, king of Scotland. When we fail by one method we do not go on ramming our heads against a brick wall; we look for a way round. We have already referred the Bill to a Select Committee. What sort of report did it produce? How many minutes of dissent were attached to it? What did Government do with it when they got it? They have produced a Bill which does not follow the report of the Select Committee and put it before us for consideration. Have we, Sir, any lead in our past experience to give us an idea of the best thing we can do? The object in view is the extension of primary education immediately and compulsion as soon as possible. Have we anything to show in our past experience which should not guide us? The Tenancy Bill had been hanging fire for no less than 9 years; it went from committee to committee but with what result? The last committee produced a report which is much like this report which we have on this Primary Education Bill but I think with even more minutes of dissent, and what did Government do with it? The Bill which they put before the House did not follow the report of the final committee. How did the House deal with it? The House took that Bill into consideration clause by clause and did the best piece of legislative work which has been done in the Bengal Legislative Council since the Reforms. I submit, Sir, that is the line to take with this Bill. We shall never

have a select committee to write an unanimous report which will satisfy everyone. Government will not be satisfied when they get it, and the only way to thrash out this matter is to take it clause by clause and worry it out on the floor of this House.

**Dr. W. A. JENKINS:** Sir, I have listened with amazement and not a little sorrow to the majority of the speeches that have been delivered on this motion this afternoon—amazement at the ingenuity which has been displayed in introducing so many irrelevancies into a subject of this kind and sorrow that in an issue which is so fundamentally important to the future of the province there should be little discussion of principle, so little introduction of educational idealism and so much depreciation of the efforts of those who are trying to forward the cause of primary education. (Ironical cheers). I know those ironical cheers, Sir. It is easy to criticise but far more difficult to put forward any constructive scheme, as many members of this House will find some day. We have heard the eloquent speech of Mr. Jitendralal Bannerjee to which I listened with the utmost admiration and appreciation, but, Sir, it was an eloquence worthy of a better cause than destruction. When we analyse that speech and try to find out the real principles underlying the facts which it contains, what do we find? He dilated on the preamble of the Bill and deplored the fact that the Bill did not state at the outset that it provided for free, universal and compulsory primary education. He reminds me very much of a traveller who goes to a booking office and asks for a ticket, say to Simla, and also puts a question as to whether he can remain in the same carriage and reach Simla without having to wait for connection anywhere. On receiving a reply that it is not possible to do so, he says—Very well, I will not go. Or, in other words, because we cannot have free, compulsory and universal education, therefore we must refuse to take any step along a path which may ultimately lead to it. He stated also that it was not his concern that the Government had no money. Sir, whatever be the reasons behind the financial embarrassment with which this province is faced, the financial embarrassment is a fact and it is impossible at the present moment to introduce any scheme of free, universal and compulsory primary education. As an educationist, Mr. J. L. Bannerjee is well aware, as I am, that for the Bengal Government to have a satisfactory universal primary education system you will have ultimately to foot a bill not of one crore but probably of 10 to 20 crores, which is far beyond the resources of this province. I am not seeking to justify the present political situation or the present financial arrangements with the Government of India but I am merely placing the facts before you and the sooner Mr. J. L. Bannerjee and his friends realise this, the sooner will they be in a position to appreciate the realities and start on a programme of reconstruction.

which will build up a rich and free Bengal. Because we cannot have free and universal primary education, is that any reason why we should not do what is possible towards bringing nearer the day when we shall see established universal primary education in this country?

It is only possible to get a certain sum of money out of provincial revenues and the balance must be found from some other source, whether it be a cess or something else; and with that amount of money so realised surely it is up to members of this House to co-operate in devising a scheme which, even if it does not mean much progress, means some progress at least.

Sir, what is the position? This Bill may be ill-conceived but it has been conceived, brought forward and considered by the leading educationists of the province and not by Government officials alone, and if in their combined wisdom they have produced a scheme which they consider to be the best possible, surely it is worthy of serious consideration by this House.

6 p.m.

Such being the case, Sir, I say that no case whatever has been made out either for the total rejection of this Bill or for its reference back to Select Committee. That is a delaying motion and I would recall to the memory of the members of this House the progress of primary education in England. There is no more melancholy reading than that of the delay which took place in the introduction of compulsory primary education there. As early as 1838 measures were introduced in the House of Commons which had the support of all parties, but for 33 or 34 years they found it impossible to pass any measure because the parties could not agree, not on main principles, but on religious matters. Conflicting opinions are bound to arise whenever any important measure, which has large principles, and on which large issues are at stake, is introduced. If the members of the House think that it is possible to bring in a measure of primary education which will have the unanimous support of all, they are grievously mistaken. It is beyond the ingenuity of man to introduce a Bill which will command anything like universal support. If this Bill is referred to a Select Committee, you will find that when it comes back amended from the Select Committee, amendment after amendment will be proposed in this House, and you will have to debate all of them on the floor of this House. The same principles which you will discuss in the Select Committee will again be discussed on the floor of this House, and all these principles will have ultimately to be decided here. A great deal has been said about the division of the cess between landlord and tenant, between the proportion of 1:4 and 2:3. If you refer it to Select Committee, do you think that

if the Select Committee decide on a proportion of 3:2, no amendments will be moved on the floor of this House? These are matters which can be debated and settled here and only here. Reference back to Select Committee for deciding issues of this kind is sheer waste of time, and the House will simply be employing delaying tactics—delaying tactics which in other countries have proved so fatal to the progress of education and which in this country will likewise retard the progress. Let those who are fundamentally opposed to the principles of the Bill say so plainly and not shirk their responsibility. Reference back to Select Committee is merely a delaying measure which will bring with it little good and may bring much harm. The issue has been placed before the House. You have a certain amount of money, and here is a scheme to utilise that money. You have the opportunity of moving amendments here. Take what you have, reject it or accept it here, but reference back to Select Committee is merely shirking the responsibility that rests upon you. I do submit, Sir, that if it is referred back to Select Committee, then, when it comes back from Select Committee, either this year or next year, you will have to debate at full length in this Council every principle underlying the Bill. Therefore, I submit that no case has been made out for referring the Bill to a Select Committee and that we should debate it here.

**Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER:** Sir, I move that the question be now put.

**Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA:** On a point of personal explanation, Sir. We have been asked to deal with the Bill here. I am prepared to accept the suggestion of Government provided Government will agree to allow us to move amendments of which I made suggestions in my speech.

**Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE:** On a point of order, Sir. Before you allow the Hon'ble Member in charge to speak will you not allow us to reply to the speeches of other Government members, as after the Hon'ble Member speaks no further speeches will be permitted.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** You are mistaken when you say that you are not permitted to speak after the Government Member has made his observations. If you like to speak you can do so, but the Government Member may again have to be given an opportunity to reply if he so desires.

**Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY:** Are we to understand, Sir, that the closure motion of my friend Babu Naliniranjan Sarker has not been accepted?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** I can use my own discretion in the matter. I think I should allow the Government Member to speak.

**Khan Bahadur Maulvi AZIZUL HAQUE:** On a point of order, Sir. Certain members on this side of the House have not yet spoken. Before you put the closure motion I want to draw your attention to this. Some members were actually on their legs.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** You will have an opportunity later on unless, of course, the closure motion is accepted and carried in the meantime.

**MEMBER in charge of EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McAlpin):** Do I understand, Sir, that all these motions fall to the ground?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** No.

**The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McALPIN:** Sir, in the course of the discussion I expected to receive some new and fresh arguments against the Bill, but what happened? Several old arguments were put forward with only one or two new ones—at least new to me. The first new one was an objection to the preamble, and the protagonists of preambles suggested that the proper way to begin the Bill was on these lines: "Whereas it is the declared policy of Government that universal, free and compulsory elementary education for boys and girls should be reached by a definite programme of progressive expansion, and whereas, etc., etc." Now, Sir, I have not the slightest doubt that Mr. Bartley could have supplied the Council with an equally resounding preamble if he had known that they wanted it, because there is no difference of opinion between us over this question. We are all at one on the fact that it is our intention to secure free and compulsory primary education so far as it is practicable as soon as possible. Personally I prefer simpler language but we can adopt the amendments which have been tabled as far as possible, because, as I have said, there is really no difference of opinion between us on this point.

Then the old argument was brought forward that because Bombay and Madras spend large sums from Government coffers, therefore Bengal should. Now, where had Bombay and Madras got these large sums from, if they have not got them by taxation. Take the figures of 1912-13. The revenues of Madras were Rs. 7,96,00,000; of Bombay

Rs. 7,82,00,000; and of Bengal Rs. 7,14,00,000. Now, what are the revenues to-day, Sir, Madras Rs. 16,97,00,000; Bombay Rs. 15,74,00,000; and Bengal Rs. 10,94,00,000. With all these large revenues—these very large expanding revenues—it is possible for Madras and Bombay to find large sums of money from Government coffers, which, of course, come by way of some sort of taxation, towards primary education. So, all that this Government is asking is for Bengal to tax itself in some other way. The House knows perfectly well that those provinces can stand such large expenditure and we cannot. Then, Mr. Jitendralal Bannerjee suggested that the Bill should not be accepted for consideration unless Government definitely stated what their financial liabilities should be. It is true he said I was inaudible, but on a reference to his previous speeches I find several remarks of his to that effect but I was not here. But I categorically and with considerable detail in my opening remarks definitely stated what Government's financial liabilities would be. I would refer to the first part of amendment No. 85, which states the commitments of Government—an amount equal to the recurring expenditure incurred by the Local Government in the year ended 31st March 1929 (I would refer to this year) for payment of grants-in-aid, for the institution and maintenance of primary schools and payment of teachers herein, and for scholarships for children in primary schools in rural areas. I stated definitely that Government had to pay large grants to district boards which they would continue to give to district school boards, and I gave the sum as little more than Rs. 21½ lakhs. Government are committed to that.

**Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE:** We want a statutory provision for that and not simply the assurance of the Hon'ble Member.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** The Hon'ble Mr. McAlpin need not, unless of course he thinks fit, pay any attention to these remarks.

**The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McALPIN:** I am not accustomed to these remarks, Sir.

Then I went on to say that we would incur expenditure for the inspectorate and for training schools and of course for what we have to pay as zamindars under the taxation proposals which will amount to one or to two lakhs.

6-15 p.m.

Then there were arguments that some other means of taxation must be found. But the whole realm of taxation has been examined, leaving the only feasible one contained in the Bill. The Select Committee have definitely stated so.

As regards the details of taxation, it is a matter which will require full examination at the time of considering detailed amendments. Some of these amendments will, I am afraid, act as boomerangs, if you do not know the Cess Act very well.

Then some one else suggested that we ought to wait for a fresh financial settlement. Well, we do not know what will happen and we cannot count on anything in particular. It is impossible to hold up a Bill like this so long, on the off-chance of finding more money which all departments of Government, such as Medical, Public Health, and so forth, will be scrambling for.

Then the old argument was brought forward that the Bill ought to deal with municipalities. It was only just touched on, but, of course, that is a separate and simpler problem, capable of treatment by itself. If complicated with this Bill, and if the taxation proposal is made uniform, then the problem of taxation which we have solved for rural areas would indeed be insoluble. What we want is a practical measure and not a theoretical one—correct but impracticable—which really is Mr. Stapleton's theme.

Then followed a reference to my mentality in criticising the popular machinery which was described by the speaker as a clog in the administration. I do not grudge the speaker his remarks about my mentality, but I do thank him for the argument that he has put in my mouth that the popular machinery, that is the central independent body, would be a clog in the administration. At this stage, it certainly would be a clog—and a very expensive clog indeed—and I thank him for the argument. We have already set up in the Bill a popular machinery which is necessary to deal with details, i.e., the district school board. One set of such popular bodies is sufficient, two including the central independent body would be a crowd. Objection was taken to the constitution of the boards. That is a matter for detailed amendments.

An attempt was made to make out that Government had altered the Select Committee's Bill considerably, though the speakers did not mention even all the alterations that I mentioned.

Sir, I have not been able to understand what the precise argument is for referring the Bill to a Select Committee, except that the speakers want to do that, because they do not like the Bill and want to bring in a dilatory motion that would prevent the Bill becoming law. I can understand Babu Naliniranjan Sarker wanting it to go to a Select Committee in order that he may get all the different proposals that he has tabled here incorporated in the Bill, and that, Sir, would probably be the result of the reference to a Select Committee. All sorts of things would come into the Bill, because Babu Naliniranjan Sarker wanted them.

We do not know what the final form of the Bill would be—probably it would be something which would be quite unacceptable to the House and to Government, and would probably delay the Bill for a year or more. I think, Sir, that, in view of the fact that the whole matter has now been thoroughly threshed out, it is time that this Bill was taken into consideration, clause by clause, by this Council.

**Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER:** I beg that the question be now put.

**Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY:** Sir, may I put one question to the Hon'ble Member in charge? Is the Hon'ble Member absolutely certain that the comparative increase in the revenues of Madras and Bombay is due to increased taxation or to the injustice of the Meston Settlement, which has left larger surpluses to those provinces at the expense of Bengal?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** Please resume your seat.

I think I should make my position clear in regard to the motion of Mr. Sarker. The rule demands that when a motion for closure has been made, the President has got to decide whether the matter before the House has been sufficiently discussed or not. So it is more or less a demand on the President to pronounce his opinion as to whether the matter has been sufficiently discussed or not. I think that if I accept Mr. Sarker's motion at this stage it will not be an infringement of the rights of reasonable debate. I have however a few more amendments before me with regard to the personnel of the proposed Select Committee. I think the members who have tabled these amendments should be given an opportunity of moving them. I, therefore, rule that if the motion for closure is carried, I shall call upon those members to formally move their amendments. On the other hand, if the closure motion is not carried, the discussion will continue.

On the closure question being put, a division was taken with the following result:—

#### AYES.

Ahmed, Maulvi Shameuddin.  
 Ali, Maulvi Hassan.  
 Ali, Mr. Altaf.  
 Bagchi, Babu Romeo Chandra.  
 Bahadur, Maulvi Syed Majid.  
 Banerjee, Dr. Pramathnath.  
 Banerjee, Babu Prometha Nath.  
 Banerji, Mr. P.  
 Banerjee, Baba Jitendra.  
 Basu, Babu Santosh Kumar.  
 Basu, Babu Dejoy Krishna.  
 Basu, Mr. Subhas Chandra.

Chakraburty, Babu Jatinrao Nath.  
 Chakravarti, Babu Jagindra Chandra.  
 Chatterjee, Srijut Bijay Kumar.  
 Chatterji, Babu Amarendranath.  
 Chaudhuri, Maulvi Ashrafuddin.  
 Choudhury, Maulvi Nurul Ahsan.  
 Choudhury, Hajji Badi Ahmed.  
 Choudhury, Maulvi Abdul Ghani.  
 Das, Dr. Mohini Mohan.  
 Das Gupta, Dr. J. M.  
 Dutt, Babu Sarai Kumar.  
 Ganguli, Babu Pratul Chandra.

Chow, Babu Amarendra Nath.  
 Guha, Mr. P. N.  
 Gupta, Mr. Jagesh Chandra.  
 Hakim, Maulvi Abdul.  
 Hashemy, Maulvi Syed Jalaluddin.  
 Himatsingha, Babu Prabhu Deyal.  
 Hoque, Kazi Emdadul.  
 Huq, Mr. A. K. Fazl-ul.  
 Khan, Babu Debendra Lal.  
 Law, Mr. Surendra Nath.  
 Mazumdar, Mr. Birendranath.  
 Mitter, Babu Rishikesh.  
 Mitra, Babu Surendra Mohan.  
 Mitra, Srijut Jagendra Nath.  
 Meekerjee, Mr. Syamaprasad.  
 Mukherjee, Srijut Taraknath.  
 Nag, Babu Suk Lal.  
 Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.  
 Pain, Babu Baroda Prasanna  
 Pal Choudhuri, Mr. Ranjit.  
 Peddar, Mr. Ananda Mohan.  
 Rahman, Maulvi Azizur.  
 Rahman, Mr. A. F. M. Abdur-

Ray, Dr. Kumud Sankar.  
 Ray, Kumar Shubh Shekharwar.  
 Ray, Srijut Radha Govinda.  
 Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Senat Kumar.  
 Roy, Babu Manmatha Nath.  
 Roy, Dr. Bidhan Chandra.  
 Roy, Mr. Bijoy Prasad Singh.  
 Roy, Mr. D. N.  
 Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar.  
 Roy, Mr. Sadhan Chandra.  
 Roy, Mr. Sarat Kumar.  
 Roy Choudhuri, Babu Hem Chandra.  
 Roy Choudhuri, Rai Bahadur Satyendra  
 Nath.  
 Sandatullah, Maulvi Muhammad.  
 Samad, Maulvi Abdus.  
 Barker, Babu Naliniranjan.  
 Sen Gupta, Mr. J. M.  
 Singh, Srijut Taj Bahadur.  
 Sinha, Raja Bahadur Bhupendra  
 Narayan, of Nashipur.  
 Tarkathirtha, Kaviraj Bimalananda, Pundit  
 Bhushan.

## NOES.

Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan.  
 Basiruddin, Maulvi Mohammed.  
 Blair, Mr. J. R.  
 Cessell, Mr. A.  
 Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Alimuz-  
 zaman.  
 Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Haftzur  
 Rahman.  
 Cohen, Mr. D. J.  
 Dain, Mr. G. R.  
 Dash, Mr. A. J.  
 Eason, Mr. G. A.  
 Fazlullah, Maulvi Muhammad.  
 Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.  
 Ghosh, Mr. M. C.  
 Ghuznavi, the Hon'ble Alhadji Sir Abdel-  
 karim.  
 Glechrist, Mr. R. N.  
 Gurner, Mr. C. W.  
 Habibullah, Nawab Khwaja.  
 Haque, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Azizul.  
 Hogg, Mr. G. P.  
 Hopkins, Mr. W. S.  
 Hasan Nawab Musharruf, Khan Bahadur.  
 Hoosain, Maulvi Muhammad.  
 Huq, Khan Sahib Maulvi Bazlul.  
 Jenkins, Dr. W. A.  
 Kasom, Maulvi Abu'l.

Khan, Khan Sahib Maulvi Muazzam Ali.  
 Khan, Maulvi Tamizuddin.  
 Lal Muhammad, Haji.  
 Maguire, Mr. L. T.  
 Malik, Mr. Mukunda Behari.  
 McAlpin, the Hon'ble Mr. M. C.  
 McCluskie, Mr. E. T.  
 Mitter, the Hon'ble Sir Prevash Chunder.  
 Mobery, The Hon'ble Mr. A. N.  
 Nag, Reverend B. A.  
 Nazimuddin, Mr. Khwaja.  
 Ormond, Mr. E. C.  
 Phillip, Mr. J. Y.  
 Rahman, Mr. A. F.  
 Rushforth, Mr. F. V.  
 Ray Chaudhuri, Mr. K. C.  
 Rose, Mr. G. F.  
 Barker, Sir Jadunath.  
 Barker, Rai Sahib Nobati Mohan.  
 Sen, Mr. J. M.  
 Shah, Maulvi Abdul Hamid.  
 Skinner, Mr. B. A.  
 Stapleton, Mr. H. E.  
 Suhrawardy, Mr. H. S.  
 Tate, Major General Godfrey.  
 Thompson, Mr. W. H.  
 Travers, Mr. W. L.  
 Twynam, Mr. H. J.

The Ayes being 67 and the Noes 53, the motion for closure was carried.

6-30 p.m.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** Having regard to my ruling that this closure motion applies to all the motions that are before the House now, I will, as promised, ask the mover of the next amendment to formally move his amendment.

The following amendments were called but not moved:—

**Rai SATYENDRA NATH ROY GHOSHADHURI Bahadur** to move that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Education Department, Mr. A. J. Dash, Mr. H. E. Stapleton, Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose, Mr. Jogesh Chandra Gupta, Babu Bejoy Krishna Bose, Babu Sanat Kumar Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Naliniranjan Sarker, Babu Akhil Chandra Datta, Babu Jogindra Chandra Chakravarti, Srijut Jogendra Nath Moitra, Mr. Syamaprosad Mookerjee, Kumar Shubh Shekhareswar Ray, Dr. Mohini Mohan Das, Maulvi Shamsuddin Ahmed, Maulvi Abdul Karim, Maulvi Syed Jalaluddin Hashemy, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Alimuzzaman Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur K. G. M. Faroqui, Mr. Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy, Mr. Altaf Ali, Kazi Emdadul Hoque, and the mover, with instructions to submit their report in time for its presentation at the next session of the Bengal Legislative Council and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a quorum shall be five.

**Babu BEJOY KRISHNA BOSE** to move by way of amendment that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Member in charge of Education Department, Mr. A. J. Dash, Mr. H. E. Stapleton, Dr. W. A. Jenkins, Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea, Sir Jadunath Sarkar, Maulvi Abdul Karim, Mr. A. F. Rahman, Mr. Syamaprosad Mookerjee, Mr. Birendranath Mazumdar, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Azizul Haque, Babu Manmatha Nath Roy, Babu Naliniranjan Sarker, Babu Jogindra Chandra Chakravarti, Babu Amarendranath Chatterji, Maulvi Abdus Samad and the mover, with instructions to submit their report by the 1st December, 1929, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a quorum shall be five.

**Babu ROMES CHANDRA BAGCHI** to move by way of amendment that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following members:—

- (1) The Hon'ble Member in charge of the Education Department.
- (2) Mr. H. E. Stapleton,
- (3) Mr. A. J. Dash,
- (4) Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea,
- (5) Babu Bejoy Krishna Bose,
- (6) Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose,
- (7) Babu Naliniranjan Sarker,
- (8) Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy,
- (9) Babu Jogindra Chandra Chakravarti,

- (10) Babu Surendra Mohan Moitra,
- (11) Babu Akhil Chandra Datta,
- (12) Babu Manmatha Nath Roy,
- (13) Srijut Taraknath Mukerjea,
- (14) Kazi Emdadul Hoque,
- (15) Maulvi Syed Majid Baksh,
- (16) Maulvi Syed Jalaluddin Hashemy,
- (17) Maulvi Abdul Karim, and
- (18) the mover,

with instructions to submit their report before the next session of the Bengal Legislative Council and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a quorum shall be eleven.

**Mr. BIJOY PRASAD SINCH ROY** to move by way of amendment that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of—

- (1) The Hon'ble Member in charge of the Education Department,
- (2) Mr. A. J. Dash,
- (3) Mr. H. E. Stapleton,
- (4) Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose,
- (5) Babu Naliniranjan Sarker,
- (6) Mr. Jogesh Chandra Gupta,
- (7) Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy,
- (8) Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray,
- (9) Raja Bahadur Bhupendra Narayan Sinha, of Nashipur,
- (10) Mr. Sarat Kumar Roy,
- (11) Maulvi Abdul Karim,
- (12) Mr. A. K. Fazl-ul Huq,
- (13) Mr. Altaf Ali,
- (14) Sir Jadunath Sarkar,
- (15) Mr. J. Campbell Forrester, and
- (16) the mover,

with instruction to submit their report to the Council as soon as possible and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a quorum shall be five.

**Raja BHUPENDRA NARAYAN SINHA Bahadur, of Nashipur** to move that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of—

- (1) The Hon'ble Member in charge of the Education Department,
- (2) Mr. A. J. Dash,
- (3) Mr. H. E. Stapleton,
- (4) Sir Jadunath Sarkar,
- (5) Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose,
- (6) Babu Naliniranjan Sarker,
- (7) Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy,
- (8) Mr. Sarat Kumar Roy,
- (9) Mr. Bijoy Prasud Singh Roy,
- (10) Mr. Altaf Ali,
- (11) Khan Bahadur K. G. M. Faroqui,
- (12) Nawab Musharruf Hosain, Khan Bahadur,
- (13) Maulvi Abdul Karim,
- (14) Mr. Surendra Nath Law,
- (15) Mr. A. K. Fazl-ul Huq and
- (16) the mover,

with instructions to submit their report before the next session of the Council and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a quorum shall be five.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA** to move by way of amendment that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following members :—

- (1) The Hon'ble Member in charge of the Education Department,
- (2) Mr. A. J. Dash,
- (3) Mr. H. E. Stapleton,
- (4) Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy,
- (5) Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea,
- (6) Mr. Birendranath Mazumdar,
- (7) Babu Piromotha Nath Banerjee,
- (8) Babu Bejoy Krishna Bose,
- (9) Babu Jogindra Chandra Chakravarti,
- (10) Maulvi Abdul Karim,
- (11) Maulvi Syed Nausher Ali,

- (12) Mr. A. F. Rahaman,
- (13) Maulvi Shamsuddin Ahmed,
- (14) Mr. W. H. Thompson,
- (15) Rev. B. A. Nag, and
- (16) the mover,

with instructions to submit their report in time for its presentation at the next session of the Bengal Legislative Council and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a quorum shall be five.

**Mr. A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ** to move that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of—

- (1) The Hon'ble Member in charge of Education Department,
- (2) Mr. A. J. Dash,
- (3) Mr. H. E. Stapleton,
- (4) Dr. W. A. Jenkins,
- (5) Maulvi Abul Kasem,
- (6) Maulvi Abdul Karim,
- (7) Mr. Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy,
- (8) Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea,
- (9) Mr. Birendranath Mazumdar,
- (10) Khan Bahadur Maulvi Azizul Haque, and
- (11) the mover,

with instructions to submit their report in time for its presentation at the next session of the Bengal Legislative Council and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a quorum shall be five.

The motion of Dr. Kumud Sankar Ray was then put and a division taken with the following result :—

#### AYES.

Ali, Maulvi Hassan.  
 Ali, Mr. Altaf.  
 Bagchi, Babu Romeo Chandra.  
 Behari, Maulvi Syed Majid.  
 Banerjee, Dr. Pramathanath.  
 Banerjee, Babu Prometha Nath.  
 Banerji, Mr. P.  
 Banerjee, Babu Jharendra.  
 Basiruddin, Maulvi Mohamed.

Basu, Babu Santosh Kumar.  
 Bose, Babu Bijoy Krishna.  
 Bose, Mr. Subhas Chandra.  
 Chakraburty, Babu Jatindra Nath.  
 Chakravarti, Babu Jagendra Chandra.  
 Chatterjee, Brijut Bijay Kumar.  
 Chatterji, Babu Amarendra Nath.  
 Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Alimuzzaman.  
 Chaudhuri, Maulvi Ashrafuddin.

Choudhury, Maulvi Nural Abear.  
 Choudhury, Haji Badi Ahmed.  
 Choudhury, Maulvi Abdul Ghani.  
 Das, Dr. Mehini Mehan.  
 Das Gupta, Dr. J. M.  
 Dutt, Babu Sarai Kumar.  
 Fazlullah, Maulvi Muhammad.  
 Ganguli, Babu Pratul Chandra.  
 Ghose, Babu Amarendra Nath.  
 Guha, Mr. P. N.  
 Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra.  
 Habibullah, Nawab Khwaja.  
 Hakim, Maulvi Abdul.  
 Hashemy, Maulvi Syed Jalaluddin.  
 Haque, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Azizul.  
 Himatsingha, Babu Prabhu Doyal.  
 Hoque, Kazi Emdadul.  
 Hoossain, Maulvi Muhammad.  
 Huq, Khan Sahib Maulvi Bazlul.  
 Huq, Mr. A. K. Fazl-ul.  
 Karim, Maulvi Abdul.  
 Khan, Babu Debendra Lal.  
 Khan, Khan Sahib Maulvi Munazzam Ali.  
 Khan, Maulvi Tamizuddin.  
 Lal Muhammad, Haji.  
 Law, Mr. Surendra Nath.  
 Mazumdar, Mr. Birendranath.  
 Mitter, Babu Rishikesh.  
 Mitra, Babu Surendra Mehan.  
 Mitra, Srijut Jagendra Nath.  
 Mukerjee, Mr. Syamaprosad  
 Mukerjee, Srijut Taraknath.

Nag, Babu Suk Lai.	Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Pain, Babu Baroda Prasanna	Pai Choudhuri, Mr. Ranjit.
Poddar, Mr. Ananda Mehan.	Rahman, Maulvi Azizur.
Rahman, Mr. A. F.	Rahman, Mr. A. F. M. Abdur-
Rahman, Mr. A. F. M. Abdur-	Ray, Dr. Kumud Sankar.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekharwar.	Ray, Srijut Radha Govinda.
Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Sanat Kumar.	Ray, Babu Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Dr. Bidhan Chandra.	Roy, Dr. Bijoy Prasad Singh.
Roy, Mr. D. M.	Roy, Mr. Kiraik Sankar.
Roy, Mr. Sadhan Chandra.	Roy, Mr. Sarat Kumar.
Roy Choudhuri, Babu Hem Chandra.	Roy Choudhuri, Rai Bahadur Satyendra
	Nath.
Saadatullah, Maulvi Muhammad.	Sarker, Babu Naliniranjan.
Samad, Maulvi Abdus.	Sen Gupta, Mr. J. M.
Shah, Maulvi Abdul Hamid.	Singh, Srijut Taj Bahadur.
Sinha, Raja Bahadur Bhupendra	Narayan, of Nashipur.
	Tarkathirtha, Kaviraj Bimalananda, Pundit
	Bhushan.

## NOES.

Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Nazrur  
 Rahman.  
 Cohen, Mr. D. J.  
 Hussain, Maulvi Latafat.  
 Kasem, Maulvi Abul.

Mallik, Mr. Mukunda Behari.
Nag, Reverend B. A.
Pay Chaudhuri, Mr. K. C.
Sarker, Sir Jadunath.
Sarker, Rai Sahib Rebati Mehan.

The Ayes being 80 and the Noes 9, the following motion was carried:—

That after the name "Babu Bejoy Krishna Bose" in the motion of Babu Naliniranjan Sarker the following names be inserted, namely:—

Mr. A. K. Fazl-ul-Huq, Maulvi Syed Majid Baksh, Maulvi Abdul Hamid Shah, Babu Jitendralal Bannerjee, Mr. Jogesh Chandra Gupta, Babu Manmatha Nath Roy, Dr. Kumud Sankar Ray, Srijut Taraknath Mukerjee, Dr. J. M. Das Gupta, Mr. Bijoy Prosad Singh Roy, Mr. J. M. Sen, Dr. W. A. Jenkins, Mr. A. J. Dash, Babu Baroda Prasanna Pain, Babu Santosh Kumar Basu, Maulvi Nural Abear Choudhury, Maulvi Ashrafuddin Chaudhuri, Mr. P. N. Guha, Maulvi Syed Jalaluddin Hashemy, Mr. Altaf Ali, Maulvi Muhammad Basir-uddin, Mr. A. F. M. Abdur Rahman and Maulvi Muhammad Fazlullah.

The motion of Babu Naliniranjan Sarker as now amended was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

## AYES.

Ahmed, Maulvi Shamsuddin.  
 Ali, Maulvi Hassan.  
 Bagchi, Babu Romes Chandra.  
 Baksh, Maulvi Syed Majid.  
 Banerjee, Dr. Pramathanath.  
 Banerjee, Babu Promotha Nath.  
 Banerji, Mr. P.  
 Bannerjee, Babu Jitendralal  
 Basiruddin, Maulvi Mohammed.  
 Basu, Babu Santosh Kumar.  
 Bose, Babu Bojoy Krishna.  
 Bose, Mr. Subhas Chandra.  
 Chakraburty, Babu Jatindra Nath.  
 Chatterjee, Srijut Bijay Kumar.  
 Chatterji, Babu Amarendranath.  
 Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Alimuz-  
     zaman.  
 Chaudhuri, Maulvi Ashrafuddin.  
 Choudhury, Maulvi Nural Absar.  
 Chowdhury, Hajji Badi Ahmed.  
 Chowdhury, Maulvi Abdul Ghani.  
 Das, Dr. Mehini Mohan.  
 Das Gupta, Dr. J. M.  
 Dutt, Babu Sarai Kumar.  
 Fazlullah, Maulvi Muhammad.  
 Ganguli, Babu Pratul Chandra.  
 Ghose, Babu Amarendra Nath.  
 Guha, Mr. P. N.  
 Gupta, Mr. Jegesh Chandra.  
 Hakim, Maulvi Abdul.  
 Hashemy, Maulvi Syed Jalaluddin.  
 Himatsingha, Babu Prabhu Doyal.  
 Hoque, Kazi Emdadul.  
 Hoseain, Maulvi Muhammad.  
 Huq, Khan Sahib Maulvi Bazlul.  
 Huq, Mr. A. K. Fazl-ul.  
 Khan, Babu Debendra Lal.  
 Khan, Khan Sahib Maulvi Muazzam Ali.  
 Khan, Maulvi Tamizuddin.

Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.  
 Law, Mr. Surendra Nath.  
 Mazumdar, Mr. Birendranath.  
 Mitter, Babu Rishikesh.  
 Mitra, Babu Surendra Mohan.  
 Mitra, Srijut Jogendra Nath.  
 Mukherjee, Mr. Syamaprasad.  
 Mukherjee, Srijut Taraknath.  
 Nag, Babu Suk Lal.  
 Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.  
 Pain, Babu Baroda Prannana  
 Pal Choudhuri, Mr. Ranjit.  
 Podar, Mr. Ananda Mohan.  
 Rahman, Maulvi Azizur.  
 Rahman, Mr. A. F. M. Abdur-  
 Ray, Dr. Kumud Sarker.  
 Ray, Kumar Shubh Shekharwar.  
 Hay, Srijut Radha Govinda.  
 Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Srinat Kumar.  
 Roy, Babu Manmatha Nath.  
 Roy, Dr. Bidhan Chandra.  
 Roy, Mr. Bijoy Prasad Singh.  
 Roy, Mr. D. N.  
 Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar.  
 Roy, Mr. Sadhan Chandra  
 Roy, Mr. Sarat Kumar.  
 Roy Choudhuri, Babu Hem Chandra.  
 Roy Choudhuri, Rai Bahadur Satyendra  
     Nath.  
 Saadatullah, Maulvi Muhammad.  
 Samad, Maulvi Abus.  
 Barker, Babu Naliniranjan.  
 Sen Gupta, Mr. J. M.  
 Shah, Maulvi Abdul Hamid.  
 Singh, Srijut Taj Bahadur.  
 Sinha, Raja Bahadur Bhupendra Narayan,  
     of Nashipur.  
 Tarkathirtha, Kaviraj Bimalananda, Pundit  
     Bhushan.

## NOES.

Blair, Mr. J. R.  
 Cassella, Mr. A.  
 Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizur  
     Rahman.  
 Cohen, Mr. D. J.  
 Dain, Mr. G. R.  
 Dash, Mr. A. J.  
 Easoon, Mr. G. A.  
 Ghosh, Mr. M. C.  
 Ghuznavi, the Hon'ble Alhadji Sir Abdel-  
     karim.  
 Ghohri, Mr. R. N.  
 Gurner, Mr. C. W.  
 Hegg, Mr. G. P.  
 Hopkins, Mr. W. S.  
 Hussain, Nawab Musarruf, Khan Bahadur.

Hussain, Maulvi Latafat.  
 Jenkins, Dr. W. A.  
 Kasem, Maulvi Abul.  
 Maguire, Mr. L. T.  
 Mallik, Mr. Mukunda Behari.  
 McAlpin, the Hon'ble Mr. M. C.  
 McCluskie, Mr. E. T.  
 Mitter, the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder-  
 Noborly, The Hon'ble Mr. A. M.  
 Nag, Reverend B. A.  
 Ormond, Mr. E. C.  
 Phillip, Mr. J. V.  
 Ray Chaudhuri, Mr. K. C.  
 Rose, Mr. G. F.  
 Rushforth, Mr. F. V.  
 Sarkar, Sir Jadunath

[6TH AUG.,

**Sarker, Rai Sahib Raboti Mohan.**  
**Son, Mr. J. M.**  
**Skinner, Mr. S. A.**  
**Stapleton, Mr. H. E.**

**Tate, Major General Godfrey.**  
**Thompson, Mr. W. H.**  
**Travers, Mr. W. L.**  
**Twynam, Mr. H. J.**

The Ayes being 74 and the Noes 38, the following motion was carried:—

"The motion that the Bengal (Rural) Primary Education Bill, 1929, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Member in charge of Education Department, Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose, Babu Surendra Mohan Moitra Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea, Mr. Kiran Sankar Roy, Babu Amarendra Nath Ghose, Babu Saral Kumar Dutt, Kazi Emdadul Hoque, Mr. Razaur Rahman Khan, Maulvi Shamsuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Azizul Haque, Maulvi Abdul Karim, Mr. A. F. Rahman, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Alimuzzaman Chaudhuri, Mr. W. L. Travers, C.I.E., O.B.E., Mr. J. Campbell-Forrester, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray, Mr. Syamaprosad Mookerjee, Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, Babu Akhil Chandra Datta, Babu Bejoy Krishna Bose, Mr. A. K. Fazl-ul-Huq, Maulvi Syed Majid Baksh, Maulvi Abdul Hamid Shah, Babu Jitedralal Bannerjee, Mr. Jogesh Chandra Gupta, Babu Manmatha Nath Roy, Dr. Kumud Sankar Ray, Srijut Tarak-nath Mukerjee, Dr. J. M. Das Gupta, Mr. Bijoy Prosad Singh Roy, Mr. J. M. San, Dr. W. A. Jenkins, Mr. A. J. Dash, Babu Baroda Prasanna Pain, Babu Suntosh Kumar Basu, Maulvi Nural Absar Choudhury, Maulvi Ashrafuddin Chaudhuri, Mr. P. N. Guha, Maulvi Syed Jalaluddin Hasherliy, Mr. Altaf Ali, Maulvi Muhammad Basiruddin, Mr. A. F. M. Abdur Rahman, Maulvi Muhammad Fazlullah, and Babu Naliniranjan Sarker with instructions to submit their report in time for its presentation at the November session of the Council, and to keep particularly in view the desirability of making primary education compulsory in the province within a definite period, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a quorum shall be ten."

#### Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till 3 p.m., on Wednesday, the 7th August, 1929, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

**Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.**

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 7th August, 1929, at 3 p.m.

**Present:**

Mr. President (the Hon'ble Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHAUDHURI, of Santosh) in the Chair, the four Hon'ble Members of the Executive Council, and 124 nominated and elected members.

**Starred Questions  
(to which oral answers were given).**

**Special holidays in courts and offices.**

\*22. **Maulvi NUR RAHMAN KHAN EUSUFJI:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department aware that, in addition to certain compulsory general holidays when the courts and offices of the Government are closed, there are certain optional special holidays available to either Hindus or Moslems only?

(b) Are the Government considering the desirability of introducing a uniform rule making the optional special holidays for one community compulsory general holidays for all, when the courts and offices will remain closed for all communities and for all purposes whatever?

**MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly):** (a) Yes.

(b) No.

**Mr. D. N. ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what are the reasons for his answer (b)?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** I have nothing to add.

**Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH:** Does not the Hon'ble Member consider that it is very inconvenient for litigants as well as for other people to attend courts while other officers of Government are on leave?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** That is a matter of opinion.

**Maulvi ABDUS SAMAD:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether this special leave available to the officers of a particular community, is also available to the pleaders' and litigants of that particular community?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** Government does not legislate for pleaders in this matter.

**Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH:** Does the Hon'ble Member consider it very desirable that Government should introduce communal feeling in Government offices in respect of holidays?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** I do not allow that question.

**Realisation of a fee for vivisection from the students of the Dacca Medical School.**

**\*23. Mr. JOCESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Local Self-Government (Medical) Department be pleased to state whether recently an endeavour is being made to realise a fee of Rs. 100 for vivisection from the students of the Dacca Medical School?

(b) If so, at whose instance is this being done?

(c) Are such fees realised in any other Government Medical School, and were such fees ever demanded before in the Dacca Medical School?

(d) If not, on what grounds is such a fee levied on the students of the Dacca Medical School?

(e) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that the imposition of such a fee is strongly resented by the students and is a great hardship to the poor medical students?

(f) Are the Government considering the desirability of making an enquiry into the matter?

**MEMBER in charge of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (MEDICAL) DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter):** (a) The reference is presumably to the fee for dissection. Orders were issued in April last for charging a fee to students of the Dacca Medical School to meet the special expenditure of that institution on the supply of bodies for training in dissection and operative surgery. The fee was fixed at Rs. 30 per annum for each 1st and 2nd year student and Rs. 20 per annum for each 3rd and 4th year student, with effect from the year 1928-29. The fees are liable to revision by increase or reduction according as the expenditure necessary for the purpose requires.

(b) On the recommendation of the Superintendent and Surgeon-General.

(c) No.

(d) Imposition of this fee has become necessary through the inability of the school to obtain locally the supply of bodies necessary for the purposes of training. The bodies of friendless and unknown persons dying in the hospital were previously made use of for purposes of medical training before final disposal, as is usually the case at medical schools. Since the year 1924 this supply has been diminishing in consequence of orders passed that such bodies should be made over to the deceased's community for disposal, and it has now practically ceased, with the result that the school has had to meet extra charges amounting to about Rs. 10,000 per annum in procuring bodies by train from Calcutta. It is considered that in such circumstances the students of the local institution for whose benefit the bodies have to be procured should meet the extra cost involved.

(e) Liability to payment of this fee has been accepted by all students admitted to the medical school this year, but naturally students who have not previously paid it dislike doing so, and it adds to the cost of medical education.

(f) Government are prepared to examine any possible method of meeting this essential requirement for medical training without incurring the heavy expenditure which it necessitates at present.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state if, before passing orders in April last, the governing body of the Dacca Medical School was consulted in the matter?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I must ask for notice of this.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state if the guardians of the students were consulted in the matter?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** Very likely not. So far as my present information goes they were not consulted, but if more definite information is wanted, I shall be able to get it for the hon'ble member.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** With reference to the orders referred to in answer to question (d), who passed the order?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** It was passed by Government in 1924.

**Mr. JOCESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the governing body of the Dacca Medical School was consulted at the time of passing the order?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I must ask for fresh notice.

**Mr. JOCESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** With reference to the answer to question (e), is the Hon'ble Member aware that the statement given in the answer is not correct, and all the students have gone on strike?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I am aware that students did strike, but I am informed from the reports of the local officers that the fees were paid by students admitted this year.

**Mr. JOCESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Is it not a fact that the fees were realised at the time of admitting new boys this year, otherwise no one else paid it?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** If my hon'ble friend wants a definite statement, I must ask for notice.

**Mr. JOCESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Is the Hon'ble Member aware that the strike that has been caused on account of the levy of the fee is causing great inconvenience to the patients in the hospital, and is the Hon'ble Member considering the desirability of taking immediate action in the matter?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I must ask for notice of this.

**Dr. KUMUD SANKAR RAY:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state if there is any uniform scale of fees for dissection in Government medical schools?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** So far as I am aware there is no uniform scale in Government schools, but in some private schools fees are realised.

**Dr. KUMUD SANKAR RAY:** Is it a fact that the students at the Dacca Medical School are charged a "theatre fee"?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I must ask for notice, but I know that the total amount of fees paid in the Dacca Government School is very much less than the total amount of fees paid in my friend's institution?

**Dr. KUMUD SANKAR RAY:** Do the Government supplement the deficiency by charging Rs. 7,000 as fines in Dacca.

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I am not aware of it.

**Mr. D. N. ROY:** Why should not Government bear this expenditure for the benefit of the country?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** Compared with the fees realised in other non-official institutions, we are charging about half, and from that point of view I do not think it would be fair to act according to my friend's suggestion, but I will consider the whole question.

**Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY:** In view of the fact that the imposition of this fee is for the purpose of giving instructions to the students, did Government consult the Bengal Council of Medical Education in this matter?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I do not think so.

**Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY:** Is it a fact that the total number of students in the Dacca Medical School is about 400?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I believe so.

**Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY:** Is it a fact that if we multiply 400 by 100 the amount is 40,000 and not 10,000.

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** The misconception lies in this that Rs. 100 is paid in 4 years and if you divide 40,000 by 4 it becomes 10,000.

#### Scheme for improvement of agriculture.

\*24. **Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department be pleased to state whether the Government have any definite scheme for agricultural improvement ready for execution in the near future?

(b) If so, what is the scheme?

**MEMBER in charge of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Alhadj Sir Abdolkarim Chuznavi):** (a) and (b) The member is referred to the annual reports of the Agricultural Department.

**Question of unemployment.**

**\*25. Babu MANMATHA NATH ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken by the Government during the years 1928 and 1929 to remedy unemployment in this Presidency?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** The member is referred to the reply given to starred question No. 39 at a meeting of the Legislative Council held on 11th February, 1929, and to the last annual reports of the Agriculture, Industries and Co-operative Departments.

**Babu MANMATHA NATH ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken in this matter since February, 1929?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** We are still carrying on the work of the department.

**Babu MANMATHA NATH ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the nature and the conditions under which the work is being carried on?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** I must refer the member to the annual report.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Member enlighten this House as to the extent of unemployment in this Presidency?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** It is impossible to answer that question without notice.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** On a point of explanation, Sir. I understand that steps are being taken and the matter is being discussed. Therefore I am asking the Hon'ble Member to enlighten us as to the extent of unemployment. That is the first matter which will have to be collected by Government before any action could be taken, and as such, may I expect an answer?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** I must ask for notice.

**Charge for Government copies in courts.**

**\*26. Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of—

- (i) revising the rule regarding charge for Government copies [H. C. C. O. 3 of 1908 (Criminal)]; and
- (ii) fixing 2 annas per 100 words, irrespective of vernacular and English?

(b) Is it not a fact that the cost of living has since its introduction become higher?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** (a) (i) and (ii) The answer is in the negative.

(b) Yes.

**Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to say whether anything will be done in the near future to improve conditions?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** I have nothing to add to my reply.

**Charges incurred for food and clothing for prisoners in jails.**

**\*27. Babu MANMATHA NATH ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political (Jails) Department be pleased to state—

- (i) the nature of, and charges incurred for, (1) food, (2) clothing for prisoners in jails in respect of—
  - (a) Indians,
  - (b) Europeaus, and
  - (c) Anglo-Indians;
- (ii) what exceptions, if any, are made in respect of prisoners in cases of political offences in respect of (1) food, and (2) clothing?

**MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL (JAILS) DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter):** (i) The member is referred to rules 1052, 1055—1057, 1119 and 1121 of the Jail Code which prescribes the nature of food and clothing for different classes of prisoners.

The annual cost per head for Indian prisoners on account of food, excluding the cost of vegetables, is Rs. 76-5 and for clothing Rs. 7-0-6. The annual cost per head for Europeans, Anglo-Indians and other persons classified as such under rule 1041 is Rs. 214-2 for food and Rs. 29-12-6 for clothing.

(ii) Special arrangements are made for State prisoners and persons detained in jail under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1925. Persons whose offences are believed to have been committed with political motives are not given any different scale of diet or clothing, unless they are classified as "special class" prisoners.

**Babu MANMATHA NATH ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the principle on which difference is made between Indian prisoners and European prisoners?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I have nothing to add.

**Babu MANMATHA NATH ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state under what circumstances offenders are classified as "special class" prisoners?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I have answered that question already; it is in the rules laid down in the Jail Code.

**Babu BEJOY KRISHNA BOSE:** May I ask who classifies them as "special class" prisoners?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** Under the provisions laid down in the Jail Code they are classified automatically.

**Babu BEJOY KRISHNA BOSE:** On what considerations?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I have nothing further to add.

**Babu PRATUL CHANDRA GANGULY:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the Chinese are considered as European prisoners?

(No answer.)

**Calcutta Fine Art Cottage, Dharamtala.**

**\*28. Mr. K. C. RAY CHAUDHURI:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Commerce Department be pleased to state whether the Government had received from the Secretary of the Press Employees' Association a letter dated 20th July, 1929, regarding the deplorable condition of the employees in the Calcutta Fine Art Cottage, Dharamtala, Calcutta?

(b) If so, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the said letter?

(c) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken or is proposed to be taken in the matter?

**MEMBER in charge of COMMERCE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McAlpin):** (a) Yes.

(b) A copy is laid on the table.

(c) The press was visited by an Inspector of Factories on the 16th January, the 29th May, the 22nd July, and, on receipt of the letter in question, again on the 29th July. Where conditions did not conform to the Factories Act and Rules, instructions were issued to the manager to have them rectified.

*Letter referred to in the reply to clause (b) of starred question No. 28.*

**Press Employees' Association.**

175, BOWBAZAR STREET,

Calcutta, 20th July, 1929.

To THE HON'BLE MR. M. C. McALPIN, C.I.E., I.C.S., Member-in-charge, Department of Industries, Government of Bengal (through the Director of Industries, Government of Bengal, and the Chief Inspector of Factories, Government of Bengal).

SIR,

I beg to bring to your kind notice the deplorable conditions under which the employees in the Calcutta Fine Art Cottage, situated

at 76, Dharamtalla Street, Calcutta, have to work. Before approaching you, I should say that I addressed a letter to the proprietors of the said press requesting them to take urgent steps to remedy the alleged grievances to which a reply had been given which was anything but satisfactory. In some cases the allegations had been denied, while in some cases a square answer had been evaded. As the employees of the said press are members of my Association, I request you in the circumstances to make a thorough enquiry into the matter. I am reliably informed that the allegations are true. I am also told that a gentleman from the office of the Inspector of Factories pays occasional visits to the said press, but in spite of the repeated requests of the employees he has not thought it necessary to take any steps. I would, therefore, request you to send a trustworthy person to look into the matter. I wish our Vice-President, Mr. K. C. Ray Chaudhuri, M.L.C., and organising Secretary, Srijut Indu Bhusan Sircar, will be glad to accompany him and assist him in the matter.

The alleged grievances are:—

\*(1) That in this burning heat the compositors are made to work under a tin shed with an apology of a *punkha*.

\*(2) That there is no arrangement for drinking water for the employees, the whole office having two tanks only of filthy water with which office work can barely go on, and only one or two departments keep one or two jugs of drinking water, but then they are used up before 12 o'clock in the noon, and in this unbearable heat the thirsty workers are left quite helpless.

\*(3) That in an office of about 300 employees there is only one latrine.

(4) That the employees are worked overtime for 3 hours, whereas in other offices the period of overtime is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours only.

\*(5) That the treatment accorded to the employees in paying out overtime wages is none too well—the office masters not only become annoyed and free of speech, but material loss is caused to the employees by deducting one anna per rupee from their just dues.

(6) That overtime wages are not paid regularly on Saturdays.

(7) That there is no regularity in the payment of monthly pay though the pay-day is fixed for the 1st day of the next month.

(8) That there is no regular rule of increment of pay—while one gets two increments in one year, another is perhaps rotting in the same pay for over five years.

\*(9) That while a bell is rung at the commencement to regulate attendance, nothing of the kind is done when the office closes at 5-30 p.m.

\*(10) That fines are illegally and most arbitrarily levied for late attendance, there being no fixed rule for it.

(11) That absentees over five days in the month are deprived of all holidays and Sundays, and a few old hands who get an allowance of 10 per cent. are deprived of that also.

\*(12) That no casual leave is granted on illness or other unavoidable accidents, and late attendance is arbitrarily counted and included with the period of absence.

\*(13) That on Saturdays the employees are detained and made to work till 4 p.m., while in the register they have to put down 3-30 p.m. as the time of departure.

\*(14) In addition to the above I am also reliably informed that about 65 per cent. of the employees in the said press are victims of lead-poisoning.

The allegations marked with \* calls for immediate redress.

Yours truly,

**MANINDRA NATH DAS GUPTA,**

*Secretary.*

**Maulvi ABUL KASEM:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state which of the allegations stated in the letter referred to in the answer were found to be correct, and which of them incorrect?

**The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McALPIN:** The allegations in this letter with which this department are concerned are numbers (1), (2), (3), (4), (13) and (14). (2) and (3) were found to be correct, and in respect of the condition of the tank, it was found to be dirty; the tank had not been cleaned for some considerable time and the water in it was not fit for drinking. The management was informed and promised to see to this. As regards (3), the matter has already received the attention of the management, and it has been referred to the Building Committee of the Corporation, for sanction to their recommendation.

**Unstarred Questions**

(answers to which were laid on the table).

**Improvement of agriculture.**

**28. Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department be pleased to state—

- (i) what amount per acre was spent by Government in the year 1927-28 for the improvement of agriculture, and
- (ii) what proportion of the total amount spent for agriculture in the year 1927-28 was spent for pay and allowances of officers and establishment?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** (i) and (ii) The member is referred to the annual reports of the Department and to the budget estimates.

**Scheme for an Agricultural College.**

**29. Maulvi MUHAMMAD SAADATULLAH:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department aware of the crying need of an Agricultural College in Bengal?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what steps, if any, the Government propose to take for the establishment of such a college in Bengal at an early date?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** (a) Yes.

(b) A scheme for the establishment of an agricultural institute at Dacca has been engaging the attention of Government for some time. The matter is still under consideration.

**Babu SURENDRA MOHAN MOITRA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what has become of the scheme for agricultural education in the Rajshahi district which was suggested?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** I must ask for notice.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state how long the matter has been under consideration as mentioned in clause (b) of the answer—how many years, or decades?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** The matter has been under consideration for roughly about 7 or 8 years. It was held up pending the report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Has the Hon'ble Member any idea how many more years will it take to consider this matter?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** I am afraid I am not able to make any prophecy.

**Maulvi MUHAMMAD SAADATULLAH:** Has there been any scheme in contemplation for the establishment of an Agricultural Institute in Jadabpur in the suburbs of Calcutta?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** Not that I am aware of.

**Maulvi ABUL KASEM:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state who is now considering the matter—the Secretariat or the District Officer?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** The Secretariat.

#### Non-official visitors of Jails.

**30. Maulvi ABDUL HAKIM:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political (Jails) Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing separately for each of the (i) Central Jails, (ii) District Jails, and (iii) Sub-Jails of the Bengal Presidency—

(i) the present number of non-official visitors; and

(ii) the number of them that are Muhammadans?

(b) Is it a fact that in some jails and sub-jails there are no Muhammadan non-official visitors?

(c) Is it a fact that there are some non-official visitors in some jails of Bengal who are not public men but are serving under Government?

(d) If the answer to (c) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the number of such visitors existing at present?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d) Under Jail Code rule 62 the holders of certain posts are ex-officio visitors of the jail. There are 8 gentlemen, including 4 Public Prosecutors and 1 High Court Judge, who do not hold any of the posts enumerated but who have been appointed visitors.

*Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) of unstarred question No. 30.*

Name of Jail.	Number of non-official visitors.	Number of Muhammadan non-official visitors.
<i>Central Jails.</i>		
Midnapore	..	6
Alipore	..	8
Rajshahi	..	8
Dacca	..	11
Presidency Jail	..	6
		2
		2
		2
		4
		2
<i>District Jails.</i>		
Burdwan	..	6
Suri	..	4
Bankura Borstal School	..	7
Hooghly	..	5
Howrah	..	7
Krishnagar	..	4
Berhampore	..	5
Jessore	..	6
Khulna	..	5
Dinajpur	..	6
Jalpaiguri	..	8
Darjeeling	..	3
Rangpur	..	4
Bogra	..	4
Pabna	..	4
Mymensingh	..	5
Faridpur	..	4
Barisal	..	5
Cornilla	..	2
Chittagong	..	3
		Nil.
		1
		1
		2
		1
		1
		2
		2
		3
		1
		2
		2
		2
		1
		2
<i>Subsidiary Jails.</i>		
Katwa	..	2
Asansol	..	3
Kalna	..	2
Rampur Hat	..	3
Bankura	..	3
Bishnupur	..	2
Tamluk	..	3
Ghatal	..	2
Contai	..	2
Jhargram	..	3
Arambagh	..	2
Serampore	..	2
Uluberia	..	4
Diamond Harbour	..	2
		Nil.
		Nil.
		Nil.
		2
		Nil.
		1
		Nil.
		1
		Nil.
		Nil.
		Nil.
		1
		Nil.

Name of Jail.	Number of non-official visitors.	Number of Muhammadan non- official visitors.
<i>Subsidiary Jails.</i>		
Basirhat	2	1
Barasat	2	1
Barrackpore	2	1
Meherpur	2	1
Kuhtia	2	Nil.
Chuadanga	2	1
Ranaghata	2	Nil.
Kandi	3	1
Jangipore	2	Nil.
Lalbagh	3	1
Narail	2	Nil.
Jhenidah	2	Nil.
Magura	1	Nil.
Bongaon	2	Nil.
Sathkira	2	1
Bagerhat	2	1
Siliguri	2	Nil.
Kurseong	2	Nil.
Kalimpong	2	Nil.
Nator	2	1
Naogaon	2	Nil.
Thakurgaon	2	1
Balurghat	2	Nil.
Alipur Duars	3	Nil.
Gaibanda	3	2
Nilphamari	3	1
Kurigram	3	1
Sirajganj	2	1
Makda	4	1
Narsinganj	2	1
Manikganj	2	1
Munshiganj	2	1
Tangail	4	2
Jamalpur	2	1
Kishoreganj	3	1
Netrakona	2	1
Rajbari	3	1
Madaripur	2	Nil.
Gopalganj	2	1
Pirojpur	3	1
Patuakhali	2	1
Bhola	2	1
Brahmanbaria	2	1
Chandpur	2	1
Feni	2	1
Noakhali	2	Nil.
Cox's Bazar	3	2
Rangamati	2	Nil.

**Bengali and Urdu shorthand reporters.**

**31. Mr. JOGESHE CHANDRA GUPTA:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political Department aware that Bengali and Urdu shorthand reports are attempted to be taken of speeches?

(b) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether there is any recognised and scientific system of Bengali and Urdu shorthand reporting?

(c) If so, what is the name by which the system is known?

(d) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that while depoing in the sedition trial of Professor Jyotish Ghosh at Chinsurah one of the Bengali shorthand reporters stated that two persons who have learnt Bengali shorthand according to the same system and under the same teacher cannot decipher and understand the report taken by the other?

(e) Are the Government considering the desirability of discontinuing the employment of shorthand reporters who do not work in accordance with a recognised scientific system and whose notes cannot be checked or deciphered by anybody else?

**MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY):** (a) Bengali and Urdu speeches are sometimes taken down in shorthand.

(b) There is a reliable and accurate method of taking down in shorthand, speeches in Bengali and Urdu.

(c) No name has been given to the system.

(d) Yes.

(e) No. Government propose to continue to employ reporters whose work they believe to be accurate and reliable.

**Mr. JOGESHE CHANDRA GUPTA:** Having regard to the answer to question (d), will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state how the reliability and accuracy or otherwise of the report is determined?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** In the first place, I would mention that I understand that even two persons, who have been trained in the system of Pitman's shorthand in the same institution, are not necessarily able to read one another's notes. In the second place, my friend has called my attention to the deposition. I have got a copy of it and I find at the end a note by the Court which runs as follows:—“The knowledge of the witness in Bengali shorthand was tested by the defence Counsel in various ways; he could read out his shorthand notes with ease; his notes before the Court tally with the exhibits in this case.”

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Is the Hon'ble Member aware that the portion that is read from the judgment refers to the witness reading his own notes after being prepared before he goes to the Court?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** Certainly.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Is the Hon'ble Member aware that the Courts have found that this shorthand reporting is unreliable, both in the Chief Magistrate's Court and the trying Magistrate's Court in Chinsurah?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** I have read out the trying Magistrate's statement as to the reliability of the report and I think I should leave it to the House to form their own conclusions.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Is the Government going to insist upon shorthand reporting even after the pronouncement in the Courts that shorthand reports are unreliable?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** That question has already been answered.

3-15 p.m.

#### Diet to prisoners.

**32. Babu PRATUL CHANDRA GANGULI:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political (Jails) Department be pleased to state—

- (i) whether it is a fact that different sorts of food which are called Bengal diet, Bihar diet, Punjab diet and Burmese diet are supplied to the prisoners; and
- (ii) the reason for supplying different kinds of food to the different prisoners?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** (i) There are two scales of diet prescribed. The Bihar diet which contains a daily ration of 7 chhattaks of rice and 5 of atta and the Bengal diet which contains a ration of 12 chhattaks of rice and no atta. Inhabitants of the Punjab, United Provinces and North-West Frontier Provinces are permitted slight variations in the Bihar diet.

(ii) The different scales date from the time when the Province of Bengal included part of Bihar and have been continued as they suit the requirements of many prisoners.

[7TH AUG.,

**Babu PRATUL CHANDRA GANGLI:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state, when there is nothing like Burmese diet in Bengal jails, why they accept Burmese prisoners from Burma?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** Because they are sent.

Maidan to the south of the Nator Munsif Court building.

**33. Babu SURENDRA MOHAN MOITRA:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Public Works Department aware that the *maidan* (Government land) to the south of the Nator Munsif Court building, in the district of Rajshahi, was used by the boys for over half a century for football play and in fact it was the only play-ground in the Nator town?

(b) Is the Hon'ble Member also aware that this year all on a sudden the play has been forbidden on the above ground under the orders of the Executive Engineer, Rajshahi, Public Works Department?

(c) If the answer to clause (b) is in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of inquiring into the case and take steps to remove the ban?

**MEMBER in charge of PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McAlpin):** (a) The site has been used for a number of years as a football ground, but it is not known when it was first used for that purpose. It is the only football ground in the immediate vicinity but others may be available on the outskirts of the town.

(b) The use of the ground as a football ground has been stopped as considerable damage has been done in recent years to the adjoining munsifi and other Government property as a result of football being played on the ground.

(c) It has already been known locally that Government are prepared to allow the ground to be used for football provided local responsible people take steps in consultation with the District Magistrate and Executive Engineer to protect the munsifi from further damage, make good the damage done, and enter into an agreement for the use of the ground. So far this offer has met with no response.

**Babu SURENDRA MOHAN MOITRA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether previous intimation was given to the people as to the fulfilment of the conditions mentioned in clause (c) of the answer?

**The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McALPIN:** I cannot say straight off. If the hon'ble member presses for the information, I must ask for fresh notice.

**Ganges Mill, Howrah.**

**34. Maulvi SHAMSUDDIN AHMED:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Commerce Department aware—

(i) that there was a recent breakdown in the Ganges Mill, Howrah, and

(ii) that some lives were lost owing to the accident?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of making an inquiry into the cause of the accident?

(c) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether any compensation was granted to the heirs of the deceased?

(d) Is the Hon'ble Member also aware that some wounded persons are still in the hospital?

(e) If the answer to (d) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether any compensation has been given to them also?

**The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McALPIN:** (a) (i) and (ii) Yes.

(b) An inquiry has already been held by the Inspector of Factories in charge of the Howrah district.

(c) The requisite compensation for the dependants of the five workers who were killed was deposited in the Court of the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation, Bengal, and in four cases the money has actually been paid to the respective dependants.

(d) All injured workers have now been discharged from the hospital and fit for duty.

(e) Yes.

**Maulvi SHAMSUDDIN AHMED:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what was the actual amount of compensation paid?

**The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McALPIN:** I must ask for notice.

**Permission for carrying lathies in the processions at Pabna.**

**35. Srijut JOGENDRA NATH MOITRA:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police Department aware that in the application made by the Secretary of the Pabna Hindu Sabha for a licence on the 15th of June last, permission for carrying only 20 *lathies* in processions was disallowed by the Superintendent of Police, Pabna?

(b) Is it a fact that only a few days after, the same Superintendent of Police granted licence to the Muhammadans permitting them to carry more than one thousand *lathies* in their procession?

(c) If the answers to (a) and (b) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reasons for the differential treatment?

**MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly):** (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Muhammadan procession was in connection with the *Mohurrum* and the carrying of *lathies* is a well-established feature of such processions. It was considered that the interests of the public peace required that no *lathies* should be carried during the Hindu Sabha procession, which did not form part of any established religious observance.

#### Malaria and Kala-azar in Burdwan and Jessoro.

**36. Kaviraj BIMALANANDA TARKATHIRTHA:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Local Self-Government (Public Health) Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement for the last 5 years, showing separately, for each subdivision, how many people died of (i) Malaria, and (ii) Kala-azar in the districts of Burdwan and Jessoro?

**MEMBER in charge of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (PUBLIC HEALTH) DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter):** A statement is laid on the table.

*Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 36, showing the mortality from Malaria and Kala-azar in the subdivisions of the district of—*

*(a) Burdwan for five years (1924—28).*

Subdivision.	1924.		1925.		1926.		1927.		1928.	
	Mala- ria.	Kala- azar.								
Sadar ..	9,227	90	8,234	86	8,913	92	8,626	100	6,851	89
Kaina ..	4,668	11	4,299	12	4,025	28	3,479	19	2,745	14
Katwa ..	3,960	..	3,660	6	3,900	1	2,942	100	1,905	71
Asansol ..	1,624	3	906	2	825	3	131	4	100	1
Total ..	10,479	113	16,910	106	17,763	124	15,178	223	11,751	175

(b) *Jessore for five years (1924-28).*

Subdivision.	1924.		1925.		1926.		1927.		1928.	
	Mala- ria.	Kala- azar.	Mala- ria.	Kala- azar.	Mala- ria.	Kala- azar.	Mala- ria.	Kala- azar.	Mala- ria.	Kala- azar.
Sadar	9,906	26	9,144	84	10,711	42	10,327	23	10,035	18
Jhenidah	7, 21	..	8,221	1	7,567	8	7,803	53	8,210	23
Magura	5,286	18	5,018	35	3,047	84	2,804	37	4,506	68
Narail	7,837	151	8,093	144	5,736	116	7,622	58	6,548	80
Bongaon	6,925	17	7,787	29	7,344	23	7,88 <sub>7</sub>	9	7,290	8
Total	37,674	212	38,263	293	34,405	273	36,44 <sub>3</sub>	180	36,584	147

**Government contribution to the District Boards for certain purposes.**

**37. Srijut TARAKNATH MUKERJEA:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state what amount has been granted to the district boards of Bengal during the year 1928-29 as Government contribution for—

- (i) anti-malarial works;
- (ii) rural water-supply;
- (iii) anti-kala-azar campaign;
- (iv) primary education;
- (v) medical improvements; and
- (vi) as loans for rural water-supply?

**MEMBER in charge of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter):** (i) Rs. 73,000.

(ii) The grant of Rs. 2,50,000 for rural water-supply is not distributed to district boards but to District Magistrates.

(iii) Rs. 1,02,000.<sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup>

(iv) Rs. 21,75,005.

(v) Rs. 59,250.<sup>3</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>4</sup>

(vi) Nil.

<sup>1</sup> Does not include any portion of the grants of Rs. 4,86,089 paid for rural health units.

<sup>2</sup> Does not include allotment of drugs from Director of Public Health's provision of Rs. 30,000 for the purpose.

<sup>3</sup> Represents grants to thana and village dispensaries.

<sup>4</sup> Does not include allotments by Director of Public Health's from his provision of Rs. 1,80,000 for free distribution of quinine.

<sup>5</sup> Does not include value of free small-pox and cholera vaccine distributed, or grants from provision of Rs. 50,000 for free vaccination.

**Srijut TARAKNATH MUKHERJEE:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state why was the grant for rural water-supply distributed to District Magistrates, and not to district boards?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** Because that was the condition under which the grant was originally sanctioned.

**Babu MANMATHA NATH ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to enlighten this House as to what happened to the scheme initiated by Government about 3 years ago for giving loans to district boards? Is there any likelihood of the scheme being given effect to?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I refer the member to the answer given yesterday.

**Maulvi MUHAMMAD SAADATULLAH:** What was the amount allotted to the District Board of the 24-Parganas?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I want fresh notice of this.

#### District Board, Jalpaiguri.

**38. Mr. PROBANNA DEB RAIKAT:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

- (i) why the elective system has not been introduced as yet in the constitution of the District Board of Jalpaiguri;
- (ii) why the formation of local boards and union boards in the districts has not been completed as yet for the said purpose; and
- (iii) what is the cause of such delay?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** (i) The Commissioner's proposals have been received and are being examined.

(ii) and (iii) On the recommendation of the Commissioner the time for completing the union board elections has been extended to the 31st December, 1929, on account of the practical difficulties in making the necessary preparations during the rains. It may not be possible to form a local board before union boards are established.

#### District Board of Bankura.

**39. Srijut BIJAY KUMAR CHATTERJEE:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be

pleased to state the exact amount allotted to the District Board of Bankura on account of augmentation grant from the provincial revenue for the year 1928-29?

(b) What are the circumstances which led the Government to withhold payment of this amount to the said district board?

(c) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to make a full statement of the case together with the explanation submitted by the Bankura District Board?

(d) How has the amount withheld from the Bankura District Board been disposed of by the Government?

(e) Does the Government now contemplate restoring the full amount of the withheld augmentation grant to the Bankura District Board?

(f) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that a large portion of the augmentation grant is spent on water-supply in rural areas?

(g) Has the amount of augmentation grant due for 1929-30 been paid to the Bankura District Board? If not, why not?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** (a) No amount was allotted to the Bankura District Board on account of the augmentation grant in the year 1928-29.

(b) and (c) Section 45 of the Village Self-Government Act requires that the district board shall make suitable grants to union boards which have raised taxation under section 37 (b) of the Village Self-Government Act (for works of improvement). The union boards in the Vishnupur subdivision budgeted for Rs. 12,000 and those in the Sadar subdivision for Rs. 5,000 under this head in 1928-29, but the district board made provision in the budget for a grant of one rupee for the whole district. The attention of the Chairman was drawn in April, 1928, to the illegality of the action of the district board in refusing to meet its statutory obligation and he was invited to have the decision reconsidered. On the 16th June, 1928, the district board passed a resolution refusing to reconsider their decision and a letter from the Chairman, dated the 25th September, 1928, made it clear that the board were deliberately opposed to the progress of union boards and that there was no likelihood that the statutory grant would be made. Government accordingly decided to withhold payment of the augmentation grant for the year 1928-29, as the district board, by refusing to make suitable grants to the union boards, had failed to fulfil the statutory obligation towards union boards imposed on it by the proviso to section 45 of the Bengal Village Self-Government Act, 1919. Moreover, from inquiries made Government were satisfied that the district board not only tried to thwart the formation of union boards in the district but was doing its best to wreck them.

(d) Rs. 9,500 out of the normal provision of Rs. 32,714 was placed at the disposal of the District Magistrate for distribution to union boards in the district. The balance was distributed through Commissioners to other district boards.

(e) As the provision for 1928-29 has been distributed there is no question of paying the grant now to the Bankura District Board.

(f) Water-supply and grants to union boards are both among the objects of expenditure from the augmentation grant.

(g) Orders about the grant for 1929-30 are under consideration.

**Srijut BIJAY KUMAR CHATTERJEE:** With reference to answers (d) and (f), will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state why it was that only an amount of Rs. 9,500 out of the normal provision of Rs. 32,714 was placed at the disposal of the District Magistrate for distribution to union boards in the district?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** The matter was carefully gone into and calculations were made. If my friend wants to know the basis of the calculations, I must ask for notice.

#### Licences for excise shops.

**40. Dr. MOHINI MOHAN DAS:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Agriculture and Industries (Excise) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that before the introduction of the fixed-fee system, there were many Bengali and non-Bengali licencees who used to hold the licences of more than one excise shop?

(b) Is it a fact that under the fixed-fee system an individual licensee cannot hold licences of more than one shop?

(c) Is it a fact that many licences have been granted to the salesmen of the old Bengali and non-Bengali licencees?

(d) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that the salesmen to whom licences have been granted are only *benamdaris*?

(e) If so, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reasons for the action of the Superintendents granting such licences?

(f) If the answer to (d) is in the negative, are the Government considering the desirability of instituting an inquiry into the matter?

**MEMBER in charge of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (EXCISE) DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McAlpin):** (a) Yes. Under the auction system this was inevitable.

(b) Yes. Combined licences, however, have to be issued in the case of small shops in outlying areas to ensure profits adequate enough to attract vendors of the right class and to keep the number of places of vend within reasonable limits.

(c) There were some such cases.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Government will be glad to institute inquiries if definite instances are given. The policy of Government has always been to refuse the settlement of excise shops with *benamdars*.

#### Bengali political prisoners.

**41. Babu PRATUL CHANDRA GANCOLI:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political (Jails) Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the present—

(i) the names of the Bengali political prisoners confined in jails of different provinces; and

(ii) the names of the jails in which each of them is detained?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** (i) and (ii) Government do not consider it to be in the public interest that the information should be supplied.

**Mr. SYAMAPROSAD MOOKERJEE:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state how public interest will be affected if the names of the prisoners were supplied?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I have nothing to add to my answer.

#### Jail Warders.

**42. Maulvi ABDUL HAKIM:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political (Jails) Department be pleased to state separately the present number of permanent (1) head warders, and (2) warders in each of the following circles of Bengal:—

(i) Presidency Jail,

(ii) Alipore Central Jail,

(iii) Midnapore Central Jail,

(iv) Dacca Central Jail, and

(v) Rajshahi Central Jail?

(b) How many of them are Muhammadans in each circle?

(c) How many of them are inhabitants of Bengal?

(d) How many vacancies occurred up to the end of June, 1929, in each of the above circles after the reorganisation of the pay of Warder Establishment in August, 1928.

(e) How many of these were filled in by Bengali Hindus and Bengali Muhammadans?

(f) Is it a fact that in many jails in the appointment of warders up-countrymen are preferred to the Bengalis?

(g) If the answer to (f) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of issuing orders for the appointment of suitable Bengalis to the post of warders henceforth in all future vacancies?

(h) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that Bengali warders are not very well treated by up-country head warders and warders who are predominant in those jails where the former exist?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) A statement is laid on the table.

(f) No, when suitable Bengalis are available they are appointed.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) Government have no reason to believe that Bengali warders are ill-treated by up-country head warders and warders, but naturally the latter are on more friendly terms with their own countrymen.

*Statement referred to in the reply to clauses (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) of unstarred question No. 42.*

## I

Name of circle.	Number of chief head warders and head warders.	Number of Muhammadan chief head warders and head warders.	Number of chief head warders and head warders who are inhabitants of Bengal.
1. Presidency Circle .. ..	37	10	Nil.
2. Alipore Circle .. ..	35	4	1
3. Midnapore Circle .. ..	25	6	Nil.
4. Dacca Circle .. ..	42	2	Nil.
5. Rajshahi Circle .. ..	40	9	Nil.

## II

Name of circle.	Number of warders.	Number of Muhammadan warders.	Number of warders who are inhabitants of Bengal.
1. Presidency Circle ..	301	62	Nil.
2. Alipore Circle ..	272	28	0
3. Midnapore Circle ..	202	23	2
4. Dacca Circle ..	209	20	26
5. Rajshahi Circle ..	284	19	3

## III

Name of circle.	Number of vacancies since August, 1928.	Number filled by Bengali Hindus.	Number filled by Bengali Muhammadans.
1. Presidency Circle ..	42	8	Nil.
2. Alipore Circle ..	16	5	Nil.
3. Midnapore Circle ..	2	Nil	Nil.
4. Dacca Circle ..	11	5	1
5. Rajshahi Circle ..	9	1	Nil.

**District Judge, Bankura.**

**43. Srijut BIJAY KUMAR CHATTERJEE:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the present District and Sessions Judge, Bankura, hears cases and appeals in his private chamber and not in open court?

(b) Is it a fact that except on occasions of sessions trial he never sits in the court-room?

(c) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that the public pleaders, clerks and litigants are inconvenienced for this?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** (a) The District Judge hears miscellaneous cases and unimportant appeals in his private chamber.

(b) Sessions cases and all cases involving the examination of witnesses and also important appeals are heard in open court.

(c) It is reported that pleaders, clerks and the litigants have free access to the Judge's chamber and that no inconvenience is felt by any one.

3-30 p.m.

**Srijut RADHA COVINDA RAY:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state from what source the answer to clause (c) was received?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** From a report of the District Judge.

**Srijut RADHA COVINDA RAY:** What was the necessity of his continuously sitting in his private chamber to try cases?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** As a matter of fact I understand that there was a glare in the open court and that the eyes of the District Judge were very seriously affected. It is under contemplation to change the court room now.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to enlighten the House as to the respective size of the private chamber and the open court room?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** I do not allow that question.

## NON-OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

### Non-official Members' Bills.

#### The Calcutta University Bill, 1929.

**Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA:** I ask for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the law relating to the University of Calcutta.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** Dr. Banerjea has asked for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the law relating to the University of Calcutta. Is there any objection?

**The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McALPIN:** We propose to introduce a Bill later on and I do not object at this stage.

The motion of Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea was then put and agreed to.

The Secretary then read the title of the Bill.

**The Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1929.**

**Maulvi SHAMSUDDIN AHMED:** I ask for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1923.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** Maulvi Shamsuddin Ahmed has asked for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1923. Is there any objection?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** We do not object to the introduction of the Bill.

The motion of Maulvi Shamsuddin Ahmed was then put and agreed to.

The Secretary then read the title of the Bill.

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** May I draw your attention to one thing. There is I find on a subsequent paper which has been handed to me an amendment by Maulvi Tamizuddin Khan that the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon by the 1st November, 1929. Is it your pleasure that that should be taken first or the motion for the Select Committee?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** I should take the motion of the Select Committee first.

**Maulvi SHAMSUDDIN AHMED:** Sir, I do not like to move the motion which stands in my name for a reference to a Select Committee. There is a motion for circulation for the purpose of eliciting public opinion. I accept that motion.

The following motion was not moved:—

**Maulvi SHAMSUDDIN AHMED** to move that the said Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Local Self-Government Department, Mr. D. N. Roy, Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose, Mr. J. M. Sen Gupta, Babu Santosh Kumar Basu, Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, Babu Bejoy Krishna Bose, Maulvi Abdul Karim, Mr. Syamaprosad Mookerjee, Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy, Maulvi Abdus Samad, Maulvi Syed Jalaluddin Hashemy, Maulvi Syed Nausher Ali and the mover with instructions to submit their report before the next session of the Bengal Legislative Council and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a quorum shall be five.

**Maulvi ABUL KASEM:** May I rise to a point of order, Sir? The hon'ble member has not moved his motion for reference to the Select Committee. How can an amendment be moved when the original motion has not been moved.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** I will consider your point and let you know my decision. In the meantime Maulvi Tamizuddin Khan may formerly move the amendment.

**Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** I move, by way of amendment, that the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon by the 1st November, 1929.

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** We have no objection to this amendment for circulation for the purpose of eliciting public opinion.

**Maulvi ABUL KASEM:** I rise to oppose the motion for circulation. The Bill is a very simple one and it only concerns the Coesipore-Chitpore and the Garden Reach Municipalities which have now become a part of the Calcutta Municipality. I do not see why opinion from any and everybody on this measure should be taken who are not the rate-payers of those municipalities. The rate-payers have already explicitly expressed their opinion and there is no need for asking for outside opinion. I submit that the Bill be either referred to a Select Committee or considered in this House.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** It has been pointed out to me that the amendment which has been moved by Maulvi Tamizuddin Khan is out of order as the member in charge of the Bill has not moved his motion for its reference to a Select Committee. In the present case, it is more or less a technical objection, the member in charge of the Bill having accepted the amendment in preference to his own motion for reference to a Select Committee. But all the same, I should like to seriously consider as to whether I should declare Maulvi Tamizuddin Khan's amendment out of order inspite of the fact that the member in charge of the Bill has actually declared himself to be in agreement with the spirit and object of the said amendment, or ask the member in charge of the Bill to move the amendment himself. I think I better tell him that I am prepared to accept that amendment as his, at short notice, if he would like to move it.

**Maulvi SHAMSUDDIN AHMED:** I move that the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon by the 1st November, 1929.

**Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE:** May I draw your attention to what had happened on a similar reference sometime ago. I was the mover of the Calcutta Rent Bill and there was a motion for reference to the Select Committee standing in my name in the Agenda. There was also an amendment suggesting circulation for eliciting public opinion. What I did was to move my motion formally and when the other motion was moved I accepted it. If we do that now that would obviate that difficulty.

**Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA:** May I refer you to section 52 (2) (b) which says that if the member in charge of the Bill moves that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee any member may move that the Bill be circulated for eliciting public opinion. I suggest that the mover should be allowed to move his motion for reference to a Select Committee. The member in charge of the Bill should have moved his motion for reference to the Select Committee, but for an understanding with the mover of the amendment. In that case he would directly come under sub-clause 2 (b) of section 52. That I think would be the correct procedure.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** The object underlying section 52 (2), is to prevent any member other than the member in charge of the Bill to move for its circulation or reference to a Select Committee, or in other words, to retard or accelerate the progress of the Bill. What happened in the present case was not against the wishes of the member in charge of the Bill as he himself is for circulation. However, what has now been done under section 51 leaves no flaw whatsoever.

**Maulvi ABUL KASEM:** Sir, if the hon'ble member has not given notice of the fact that he was going to move this amendment for circulation inspite of his amendment for reference to a Select Committee then I submit that the mover has prevented me from moving an amendment for reference to the Select Committee myself.

**Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY:** To oviate difficulties would it not be advisable if we move that the Bill be referred to the Select Committee?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** Nobody has asked for leave, in the right form, to move such a motion at short notice. I have already given my ruling in the matter and I think that what we have done now is absolutely correct.

The motion that the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon by the 1st November, 1929, was then put and agreed to.

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**Resolutions**

(on matters of general public interest).

**Compulsory physical training and military drill to school boys and college students.**

**Babu BEJOY KRISHNA BOSE:** Sir, I beg to move the resolution that stands in my name. It runs thus—

“ This Council recommends to the Government the urgent necessity of promulgating rules and regulations for making compulsory in all schools for boys to take lessons in physical training and military drill, and in colleges for students to receive military training.”

Sir, since 1924 this resolution has been appearing in the agenda and at last to-day I have got the opportunity to move it. Owing to the opposition of Hon’ble Sir James Donald I missed the opportunity on 22nd February, 1926, when my friend Mr. A. C. Banerjee moved his resolution for making physical culture compulsory in all schools for boys between the ages of 12 and 16. There is a great difference between his resolution and mine. Mr. Banerjee only advocated the introduction of lathi play, wrestling and swimming, whereas I am urging for the acceptance of a definite scheme for physical training and drill in schools and for military training in colleges. I am afraid there will be opposition from Government benches, for the words drill and military training may upset the equanimity of minds of the bureaucracy.

I am well aware of the observations of His Excellency at a Convocation of the Dacca University held 2 or 3 years ago. He said “ The Government of Bengal felt unable to support the University of Calcutta in their request for compulsory military service for all students.” Undaunted by the observations from such a high quarter I beg to move my resolution to give expression to the views of the representatives of the people in the hope that the pressure of public opinion might induce the Government to change its views.

The need for physical training of our young men is admitted. The question is, how is that training to be imparted. It is well known that our boys and young men are physical wrecks—a hopeless, helpless, dispirited and emasculated race. Medical observations disclosed that 71 per cent. of our young men suffer from defects of the preventable type, that two in three require attention, that only 8 per cent. are muscular and 92 per cent. are physical wrecks, that the maximum physical efficiency is reached at the age of 21 after which there is a decline showing the weakening of the power of resistance of the body and that 45 per

cent. have stooping postures. In the present year 1,018 school children have been examined and their dietary collected. What is the result?—

Dental caries—23·7 per cent.

Pyorrhœa—15·5 per cent.

Malnutrition—65 per cent.

Gastro-intestinal diseases (diarrhoea and dysentery)—21·5 per cent.

Respiratory catarrh—34 per cent.

Enlarged cervical glands (a large per cent. tubercular)—75·8 per cent.

It will be seen that 80 per cent. of the pupils require medical aid in one form or another. Is not this an appalling figure?

This is a sufficient indictment of the present system whereby no attempt is made to better the physique while the stuffing of the intellect is proceeded with. The Government or the people who remain unmoved after these disclosures are either callous or heartless, but surely less than human. If we were an independent nation would we have allowed our national assets to decline and decay in this way. Our foreign rulers, believing that foreign armies would defend India in the hour of need, remain unmindful and they are satisfied with making us a nation of quill drivers. They talk of Soviet intrigues, they defend our frontiers, to the bogey of North-Western Frontiers is added another, the North-Eastern Frontiers, they think that sedition will be killed by the Indian Penal Code and by crushing the manhood, by the rigours of jail discipline, they can for ever preside over the destinies of 350 millions of people. Vain hope. Little do they count upon a contended, a peaceful, a free and a trusted people. If our young men are trained and trusted, if they are made contented, then the multitudinous hordes of the finest armies in the world will roll away like summer clouds before the serried ranks of Indians of all races and creeds fired with the lofty ambition to defend their hearths and homes and their country.

What has the Government done to prevent this decay of our young men? In 1921 two circulars were issued—Nos. 37 and 38 of 9th April, 1921, requesting teachers to be present when students played outdoor games. In the meantime the need for physical education became strong owing to disclosures made by the Student Welfare Committee of the Calcutta University. I understand that in the last four classes of Government and aided schools some form of physical training is made compulsory. The top classes are exempted. No sane person would say this is a satisfactory state of things.

The Government has done another thing. At a time of financial stringency it has appointed from November last a Physical Director on

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a pay of Rs. 900 per mensem. The budget provides for his pay, travelling, establishment and other allowances but nothing for (1) playgrounds, (2) athletic gear, and gymnastic apparatus for schools and (3) the training of teachers to impart physical education to the boys in the various schools in the Province. What will the Physical Director from a foreign land on a fat pay do? He will simply draw his pay, go on tour and draw up schemes to be shelved for want of funds. At present Government undertakes training of teachers—a cheap and inadequate course—for 6 weeks only, teachers coming from Government schools, but does not contribute a farthing towards the expenses for the training of those coming from non-Government schools and colleges.

The supplementary budget of 1922 provided for a Physical Advisor on a monthly pay of Rs. 250 and Rs. 17,000 for playgrounds and Rs. 5,000 for athletic and gymnastic apparatus for schools. The most wonderful thing is, the latter two grants were subsequently retrenched and following a further progressive policy in retrenchment several posts of drill masters were abolished. So far no money has been budgeted to revive those posts or to provide gymnastic apparatus. Now physical training is being taught imperfectly by ill-paid drawing masters and in some cases even by pundits. While Government cannot afford to revive the post of drill masters on Rs. 50 a month, it is not ashamed to import a costly Physical Director on Rs. 900 with allowances and from England, a gentleman who is not conversant with the languages, customs, needs and habits of the boys. He will look upon the boys as living machines to be worked according to stated syllabus—which he will draw up—perhaps to be relegated into the “solemn archives of oblivion's uncatalogued library.”

In 1921 Dr. Mainwaring Holt, late Demonstrator, Sheffield University, was appointed on a fat salary as Physical Director of the Dacca University. He never cared to go out into the grounds, but indulged in ambitious schemes and edited long notes. He had to be sent away long before his term expired. Top heavy departments are started, square men are thrust into round holes, and we are familiar with the result.

What has the Calcutta University done in this connection? I am sorry to say precious little. In 1892, 36 years ago, the matter was discussed in the Syndicate—but the proposal was rejected by the Senate by 19 votes to 18. That panacea for all evils that flesh is heir to, viz., a committee, was appointed for detailed consideration and report. The committee never met. *Kumbhukarana's* slumber was broken after 32 years and on 23rd August, 1924, another committee was appointed to consider the question of imparting physical education to students which fortunately met and submitted a report which was adopted by the Senate on 26th July, 1925. The recommendations of this committee are in entire accord with the recommendations contained in my resolution.

Then a correspondence ensued between the University and the school and college authorities on the one hand and the University and the Government on the other. I have no doubt that another generation of our boys would go down the vale of life before any workable understanding could be reached.

Difficulties are raised, apprehensions, some real but mostly imaginary, are entertained. The first criticism is, it is difficult to put the time for physical exercise during ordinary school hours from 10-30 a.m. to 4 p.m. This will disappear if a little change is made. Make the ordinary school hours 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and again from 1-30 to 3 p.m.—the last two periods of the duration of 45 minutes each. After a recess of half-an-hour for rest (the tiffin hour being from 1 to 1-30 p.m.) students shall take physical exercise for one hour from 3-30 to 4-30 p.m. If necessary, reduce the hours for intellectual exercise—the classes—from 5 to 4 hours each day—that will not make our boys less intellectually keen or fit.

The second objection is on the score of nourishment. What will the boys take for tiffin? I apprehend no difficulty in the mufassal. There the taste of the boys is not vitiated by hankering for the poisoned sweetmeats of the markets, nor by the taking of preparations of meat from cheap eating houses. *Muri, murki, batasa*, home made *laddu* form their tiffin and they never grumble. Chapatis and molasses can be easily and cheaply supplied. If Calcutta students are only prevented from seeing the Cinema shows and purchasing tickets throughout the football season much can be saved. It is a question of co-ordination between the guardians and the authorities, supplemented by funds about which I have something to say later on. Then objections have been raised by Government to military training. I will deal with them last.

Now with regard to physical exercise for students. It is admitted all round, by all and sundry, that the days of persuasion are over. Amateurish advice and pious wish will not solve the problem. There is a Government curriculum of physical culture. There are some drill masters—ill paid and ill educated. The Calcutta University will like some drill, hockey, football, wrestling, club exercises, playing with sticks to be introduced. They are all very good but they do not go far enough. What is wanted is a well-thought-out scheme, a provision for its enforcement and supply of funds.

There must be well-trained physical instructors, men who have got diplomas from a school for physical education which should be started on the lines of the school at Madras. It is necessary to create a permanent physical education staff as a branch of the Education Department. Then in every school and college there must not only be space set apart for exercises but there must be full equipment. Public demonstrations and inter-school and collegiate competitions should be encouraged. The Province should be divided into units, the Calcutta

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schools and colleges into one group and all the rest into several units—with physical directors to supervise the whole working. There is need also for health propaganda among students. Those who go to sleep thinking that early marriage is at the root of physical deterioration, and unless social reforms are first made, nothing need be done, are wholly mistaken. They recapitulate half-a-century old copy-book maxims. It is seldom we come across now of girl wives and boy husbands. Economic troubles are bringing about social reformation on that head at least.

Over and above these forms of physical exercise I would insist upon all boys between the ages of 7 and 12 to be trained like Boy Scouts in all primary schools. Their attendance must be a part of the total class mark. All students from 13 to 16 must learn athletics and drill. Sometime ago Anglo-Indian boys were allowed to form cadets. Why not Indian boys also? Physical and squad drill require no implements for exercise and can easily be introduced. A certain degree of physical efficiency must be shown to qualify the young students for promotion from one class to another. A school or college making no provisions for these would not be recognised by the Universities and if already recognised the recognition must be withdrawn, and students from them should not be allowed to sit at examinations. Such drastic steps are necessary. In order to ensure all these there must be a perfect co-operation and absolute co-ordination among the various public bodies, the Government, the University, the Municipalities, the District Boards and the educational institutions. There must be a Central Board of Management consisting of representatives of all the various interests. All these various bodies must be made to pay. Apart from the athletic fees realised from students, the educational institutions must set apart a sum, from its general income. It should be supplemented by fixed annual grants from local Universities and District Boards and liberal grants-in-aid from Government. The pay of physical instructors, cost of equipment, help towards tiffin in case of poor students all should be met from this fund. Where there is a will there is a way. The difficulties are not insurmountable. To hang up the scheme and allow the nation to go to ruin are no longer desirable.

I next come to the most ticklish question, military training of college students. The Calcutta University supports the idea and want a scheme to be drawn up in consultation with the military authorities. The Shea Committee also supports the scheme. But the Government of Bengal throws cold water on the very idea. In their letter No. 3500Edn., dated the 23rd October, 1926, they say "the correct policy at the present time would be to encourage the formation of additional battalions, companies or platoons of the University corps in suitable centres on a voluntary basis." His Excellency the Governor of Bengal said at Dacca that "the military authorities should place no

obstacle in the way of any University or College forming a contingent of the University Training Corps provided that the University or the college authorities can guarantee a fixed minimum number of members and can provide suitable officers."

I am thankful for the little concession. But of the 30,000 college students how many can be taken in the training corps. Then again "voluntary basis" is a very illusive step. I would insist upon compulsion, call it conscription if you like. With the shadows of the Great War overspreading all over us, Territorial Units were formed by a mild form of conscription. Those engaged in it knew how difficult it was to enlist our young men in the Army. The old *Kshatriya* spirit is dead and Government will not trust us. In Hindu times the *Kshatriyas* were set apart as the special fighting asset of the nation. Under Muhammadan rulers cultured men were soldiers first and *raiyees* afterwards. Dynasties of soldiers with their retainers were the pillars of the State. Even in early days of the East India Company the Bengalees were not so enervated and effete as they are now after nearly 160 years of British rule. Fear is at the bottom—fear and apprehension lest the Great Empire is lost one day. Let not the words "Too Late" be written on the portals of the Military Secretariat. Talk of reduction of the standing army, of the Indianisation of the forces, of an Indian navy manned by Indian men and officers—all are empty dreams, political shibboleths to soothe the baby—so long as India may be bled for Britishers to live and enjoy and domineer over us. Sir, a Great Empire and a little mind go ill together. The British cannot remain here a day if after 160 years they cannot depend upon the quality of that rule—but depend mostly upon the length and force of their arms.

The objections to military training of college students as formulated by Mr. Lindsay in his above quoted letter are—

- (1) Cost of equipment and training of 30,000 college students will not be borne by the Military authorities, but must fall on students or on provincial revenues.
- (2) Large number of students are not physically fit for military training.
- (3) There are military penalties for refusal to attend drills or obey orders.
- (4) Hard marching, camp life, drill will not be popular.
- (5) Opposition in many cases will result in indiscipline and trouble in the corps.

I can at once say that except (1), viz., the cost, all the other grounds are not worth serious consideration. Do not utter libel on a whole nation. The Bengalees are not a nation of cowards. Cowards are they

who are afraid of giving us military training. Our Province had produced the greatest of reformers, scientists, lawyers, literateurs and politicians; given the opportunities it can yet produce great warriors. The Bengalees have got amiability, agility, intellect, initiative and command. They are without fanaticism and prejudice. These are military virtues of no mean order. They may not have the physical proportions of the Afghans, the Pathans, the Rajputs, the Sikhs or the Beluchies. But the Japs and the Chinese are not physical giants. The Bengalees are nimble in body, keen in wit, have got brains to assimilate and powers to initiate. They are docile and disciplined, respect for elders they learn from their cradle. A regular course of drill and physical exercises from youth will train them to bear hard labour and discipline is ingrained in them.

The real trouble is one of finance. Why the Military authorities will not pay I cannot understand. They do not bring money from their fatherland to defend our borders. Extorting every pice from us they turn round upon us and say we will not train you to defend yourself. Nemises will come one day when it will be too late to learn. Then, as regards Provincial Revenue. They exist for the ordinary Police, for costly tours, for overseas allowances, for Secret Service, for C. I. D., D.D., I.B., and S.B., for bands and carpets, yea, even for constables' mosquito curtains; they exist for the carrying out of the recommendations of the Lee Commission and the Jails Enquiry Committee, for exodus to hills, for the travelling allowances of all and sundry. They should not be touched to make men of our boys, to save the nation from decay and ruin. I earnestly commend my resolution to you and beseech you to make a beginning and it will be seen in 10 years that the scheme is a success and the false prophets of to-day, who scoff, will admire and extoll the very youths whom they distrust and deery.

4 p.m.

**Babu HEM CHANDRA ROY CHOUDHURI:** Sir, the demand of a nation upon its ruler for adequate provision for the physical culture and training so necessary for self-defence is but an honest, reasonable and modest one. A subject-nation, like ours, may have to make such a demand, nay, often be refused, but every national Government of the world makes it its primary duty to look to the health of its people and if it lags behind it is charged with criminal negligence of duty and declared to be unfit for holding the sovereign power any longer.

We have been taught in our boyhood the golden maxims "a sound mind in a sound body." "When health is lost everything is lost." Sir, what is true of an individual is true of a nation. But do we find our rulers anxious for our health? It reminds us of the days of Bengal partition agitation. Along with the idea of political emancipation it

attracted the attention of our leaders that political freedom is inconceivable for a physically weak and frail nation. And forthwith many gymnasiums were organised throughout Bengal for the physical culture of our boys. But our guardian—the Bengal Government—smelt sedition in those institutions—what was the fate of those institutions? Almost all of them had to discontinue their existence owing to the terrorism of the police within a few months of their birth. From that time our leaders tried in various ways to ameliorate the physical condition of our young generation. But the Government did practically take no step in the matter.

Let us now take a survey of the present condition of the health of our students.

From the report on the students welfare scheme we find that the percentage of the number of students classified as general defectives, has steadily risen during the last few years from 25·7 per cent. to 34·7 per cent. In other words one in every three students is suffering from some form of constitutional disease which requires immediate treatment and attention.

The percentage of the number of students who have some sort of defect or other is 71 per cent., i.e., only 29 per cent. of the students may be said to be free from defect, and that the percentage of the number of students capable of standing erect is only about 57 per cent.

The other day the Hon'ble Mr. Moberly told us that sufficient Bengalis of the required physical standard do not present themselves for enrolment as constables. I believe the Hon'ble Member would have been more accurate had he told us that sufficient Bengalis of required physical standard are not found.

**4-15 p.m.**

Is it not a fact that every year lots of candidates for Imperial and other services are found ineligible on medical examination? Is not our average span of life much shorter than that of other civilised nations? Does not negligence or rather want of physical culture among our boys contribute to a large extent to such a deplorable state of affairs? Sir, is it not an appalling or rather shocking story to hear about such a state of health of our youths who are pillars of the nation?

How long shall we allow this to continue? Is it not high time to bring pressure on the Government to take active measures in the matter? From the official bench an excuse may be trotted out—I say time-worn excuse—that the Government is short of funds.

Sir, whenever any demand has been made or any project was found necessary to be taken up, for national welfare, we have got such a evasive reply. We have got about 35 crores of rupees as revenue. Can

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we not set apart a few lakhs of rupees for such a nation-building project? I believe it is not the want of funds but the want of sympathy and neglect of duty on the part of Government that stand in our way.

Now a question may arise why do we choose military drill and military training among many kinds of physical exercises. The simple reply is this—that military drill and training teach discipline, punctuality and obedience also and satisfy the cravings of a nation to be well-trained to defend its own motherland.

With these few words in support of the resolution moved by Mr. Bose, I take my seat.

**Babu PRATUL CHANDRA GANCOLI:** Sir, I rise to support the resolution moved by the hon'ble member Srijut Bejoy Krishna Bose. The main reason for my great enthusiasm for the cause of compulsory physical and military training lies in the painful and distressing sight of the physically unfit in overwhelming numbers among the young students of the country on the one hand and my faith in the wonderful efficacy of physical exercise in improving the physique and cultivating the qualities of smartness, hardihood, courage, discipline, etc., so essential for the effective discharge of our civic duties on the other.

Sir, possibly no facts need be arrayed to prove that our physical deterioration is well nigh complete. It is quite palpable to those who have got eyes. The signs of physical breakdown are visible all around, throughout the length and breadth of the country. A health parade of our University students disclosed some time ago the miserable condition of the health of our students. The health of the future hopefules of our country is appalling indeed, and should not be tolerated even for a single day.

The demand for improving our physical fitness in general is urgent and immediate. The introduction of compulsory physical exercise among the youth of the country is sure to be of much help in the matter. But compulsion is only feasible among the students. Now the question may arise as to why compulsion should be resorted to. The reply is simple. In an atmosphere of general physical unfitness of a serious nature we cannot expect the victims to take to regular physical exercise voluntarily. Their general physical breakdown and its consequential indolent and lethargic habits do stand in the way. So compulsion is indispensable.

But simply compulsory physical training will not do. We are out in an attempt to lead our country to the full stature of nationhood as conceivable by human intelligence so far. We are determined not to consider any obstacle insurmountable, and no sacrifice too great in the cause of such noble achievement. The path is terribly arduous and beset with enormous difficulties (as our country by universal consent is

sunk in the extreme depth of degradation). To tread along such a path successfully our young men needs be strong, courageous, disciplined and determined—and what other way is better fitted to impart these qualities in our young men but compulsory military training? I am sure our young men as such are inferior to no set of young men in any other part of the world. But for want of proper training facilities their capacity for achieving anything is practically non-existent.

Compulsory military training among our University students would cure much of these ills and fit them for service in the cause of saving the country from foreign aggression and helping it to progress and liberty.

So, says logic, but I am not sure whether force of logic appeals more to our friends on the opposite rather than the logic of force.

The resolution under discussion is one of vital importance to us here and we can ill afford to manage without it but the possibility is that the recommendation may fall flat on the members opposite. We are painfully aware that we are quite helpless in the matter of introducing compulsory military training without Government support.

But their seats are safe as they are deeply entrenched here in their positions backed by strong physical brute force and no power on earth can dislodge them from these positions of power and authority unless armed with a similar force.

This is the logic and this is the reasoning that they understand quite easily and I hope my non-official friends will gradually be awakened to the realities of the situation and not devote the whole of their time and energy for the development of powerful logic alone. I would appeal to them to see that, even if the recommendation which is indispensable for our very life as a nation be not accepted by Government, we receive sufficient encouragement from my non-official colleagues, in our attempt to develop universal military training on a voluntary basis among the youth of the country. In spite of possible attempts from the other side to crush the movement, signs whereof are already visible in different parts of the country, with the help of laws of questionable nature.

The demand for the development of force-factor in the body politic must be complied with by all wishing well of the country. With these remarks, I support the resolution.

**Babu SANAT KUMAR RAY CHAUDHURI:** Whilst charging Government with neglect we cannot exonerate ourselves for not having obtained physical culture and military training in the manner that we ought to have got. Possibly that is due to the glamour of University education. We have now come to understand how much we have lost.

In fact if you look at the columns of the newspapers you will find every day the uselessness of our men demonstrated in either fighting with dacoits or protecting their women from abductors, or in other spheres of life, and it is because of this that this motion has been tabled by my friend Babu Bejoy Krishna Bose. While there is something to be said in regard to physical training, the same thing cannot be said about military training which can only be given under the aegis of the Government. As regards the utility of military training, there can be no two opinions about it; it has been said that objection has been taken to military training on the score of cost. But if you have a body of men trained in arms near at hand to help you in time of need, there will be a large reduction in military expenditure in the shape of transfer of troops from one place to another. There is another aspect which attracts our attention in regard to the value of military training, and that is this: one defect in our national life in the present day is want of co-operation amongst ourselves. If a dacoit or a thief comes to a man's house, it is very rarely that the other villagers go to his assistance, and the lesson that military training gives everybody is co-operation. If compulsory military training is introduced it will no doubt be a blessing to the people. There is another thing which my friend Mr. Bejoy Krishna Bose has already remarked upon about making military training compulsory. I think that the only way to make it compulsory and acceptable to all, will be to say that unless you have secured a certain number of marks at the military examination, you will not be allowed to pass civil examinations. At the very first opportunity we should make military and physical training compulsory subjects in all the Universities.

**Maulvi SHAMSUDDIN AHMED:** I rise to lend my support to the resolution moved in this House by my friend Babu Bejoy Krishna Bose. There is some defect in the system of education imparted in this Province. I know the health of the students is certainly very bad, but if we want to improve the condition of the health of our young men, certainly physical training must be made compulsory. It might be said that even in other countries, even in England for instance, there is no compulsory physical training in schools. It may be true, but all the same when we see that the health of our young men is deteriorating daily, it is certainly the duty of Government to see that the condition and health of the youth of the country are improved. This is also our duty.

#### **Adjournment.**

The Council was then adjourned till 3 p.m., on Thursday, the 8th August, 1929, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

**Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under  
the provisions of the Government of India Act.**

THE COUNCIL met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 8th August, 1929, at 3 p.m.

**Present:**

Mr. President (the Hon'ble Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHAUDHURI, of Santosh), in the Chair, the four Hon'ble Members of the Executive Council, and 118 nominated and elected members.

**Names of the elected members to the Public Accounts Committee.**

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** The hon'ble members are aware that a ballot took place yesterday for election of members to the Public Accounts Committee. The House will be interested to know the names of the members returned—

Khan Bahadur Maulvi Alimuzzaman Chaudhuri.

Babu Naliniranjan Sarker.

Babu Santosh Kumar Basu.

Babu Bejoy Krishna Bose.

**Mr. W. H. Thompson.**

Mr. Jogesh Chandra Gupta.

**Starred Questions**

(to which oral answers were given).

**Air survey in Maldia.**

**\*28. Babu ROMES CHANDRA BAGCHI:** (a) With reference to the reply given to starred question No. 54 (d) at the meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council held on the 27th February, 1929, will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether the Air Survey Company in charge of the Maldia survey work have actually refunded the amount of Rs. 1,03,400 drawn by them as remuneration?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

(c) Is it a fact that the same company are again going to start the air survey of the same district?

(d) If the answer to (c) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reasons for entrusting the survey work to the same company?

(e) Was it not a fact that the original contract was cancelled on account of the failure of the company to perform the survey owing to their want of proper scientific knowledge?

**MEMBER in charge of REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter):** (a) No.

(b) As difficulties and complications might have arisen over the question of the cancellation of the contract and the refund of the money advanced, the company was informed that they would not be called upon to make an immediate refund if they accepted the position that the contract was rightly cancelled, and in that case they would be allowed at their own risk and expense to produce satisfactory maps of a block of 130 square miles (the area to be surveyed for the whole district being about 1,600 square miles). It was further stipulated that if the company accepted the position about the cancellation of the maps and tried at their own risk and expense to produce satisfactory maps of the area mentioned above, Government would be the sole judge as to whether the maps were to be accepted or not.

(c) New maps have been recently prepared by improved methods on the basis of the existing air survey for about 100 square miles in Malda. These maps appear to be accurate, but pending the result of thorough test now in progress, no decision on the question of re-starting air survey has been arrived at.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The previous failure of the company was primarily due (i) to their own inexperience of local conditions; (ii) to the inexperience of the local staff recruited by them.

**Babu ROMES CHANDRA BACCHI:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the Government inquired about the previous experience and knowledge of the Air Survey Company in district survey work before entering into a contract with the company; if so, which district they surveyed before they took up survey work in Malda?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** If the hon'ble member refers to the original contract, so far as I am aware I do not think they did any district survey in Bengal barring the survey work in Chittagong. But that was before my time, and I must ask for notice if my friend wants an accurate answer.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** With regard to answer (c), are not these improved methods the same as the measurements taken by ordinary Amins?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** So far as I am aware, it is not.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Has the Government any information as to what improved methods they are at present employing in order to secure accuracy?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I had information on the point in April last, but I do not remember it at present. I had a conference of experts on this matter.

**Babu SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the company has, as a matter of fact, accepted the position that the contract was rightly cancelled?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** Yes, I have already answered that.

**Babu SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether there was any penalty clause in the original contract?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** So far as I remember, there was no penalty clause, but on the failure of the contract they would be bound to refund the money; but they did not admit that there was a failure of the contract. We said that it was a failure, and they accepted that decision.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Is the Hon'ble Member aware that if the survey had been undertaken in the ordinary way by Amins, the cost would have been the same and the measurements would have been accurate without any doubt?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** That question has been dealt with in a subsequent question to-day.

**Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether any legal advice was taken before the company accepted the position?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I do not understand the question. We said that the contract was rightly cancelled and ultimately they accepted the position.

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**Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH:** My question is whether before coming to a decision on the point, legal advice was taken.

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** Before advising the company that their contract has been rightly cancelled, legal advice might or might not have been taken.

### Air survey in Malda.

**\*30. Babu RISHIKESH MITTER:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken to recover the cost of the air survey in the district of Malda from the Air Survey Company, Limited?

(b) Is it a fact that the same company have been given another contract for the air survey of the said district?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reasons for giving such a contract to the same Air Survey Company, Limited?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** (a) The member is referred to the reply given to clauses (a) and (b) of the question asked by Babu Romes Chandra Bagchi on the same subject at this meeting.

(b) As explained in answer to the question of Babu Romes Chandra Bagchi an experimental contract for the production of new maps by improved methods on the existing air survey for 130 square miles has been entered into with the company.

(c) The contract is purely experimental and was not entered into until there was a definite prospect of success. If the experiment fails nothing would, under the contract, be payable to the company. The increasing importance of aerial photography, as an economical and accurate method of survey, justified the continuance of the experiment: the contract was placed with the same company as no other agency was available.

**Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether some of the members of this Air Survey Company, Limited, are retired Government officials of the Indian Survey Department?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I am not quite aware as to whether some of the members are retired officers of the Indian Survey Department, but I am aware only of this that a retired member did see me in this connection; I am not aware whether he is a member of the company.

**Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER:** Is it a fact that a Government official in an exalted position put pressure on the Hon'ble Member to encourage the company in their experiment?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** I do not allow that question.

**Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER:** But it is a question of fact.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** Order, order.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to enlighten this House as to the extent of economy contemplated by aerial survey?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** My friend will find that answer dealt with in answer to the next question.

**Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether any high Government official has ever requested the Hon'ble Member to encourage this company?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** I do not allow that question.

**Babu SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the name of the gentleman who saw him in this connection?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** I do not allow that question.

**Babu SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** Does the Hon'ble Member consider that this interview with him was confidential, and cannot be disclosed to this Council?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** No, it was not confidential. He only pointed out to me certain aspects of the question.

**Babu SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to disclose the interview, or the substance of the interview which took place on that occasion, and the name of the gentleman who interviewed him?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** Although I can object, I do not want to—

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** When you say that the interview was not confidential, how could you now refuse to answer the question?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I can object to giving the name, but I am not objecting. The gentleman who

saw me was Mr. Tandy, a retired member of the Indian Survey Department. The interview took place many months ago, and all that he wanted to point out to me was why the previous survey results were not satisfactory, how it was inaccurate, how it could be made accurate, and so on. It was more or less a technical matter.

**Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA:** I want to ask a very simple question. Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to tell us if this company was recommended to him by anyone; if so, by whom?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** The contract took place long before my time. From enquiries I have made, I understand they had a previous contract in Chittagong.

**Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA:** That is no answer to my question. My question is: was this company recommended to Government by anybody, and if so, by whom?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** It was before my time, and I do not think I can answer it.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** Do I understand that you do not know the name?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** No, there was no recommendation made to me by anybody.

**Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state if any recommendation was made to waive the penalty payable by the company?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** No.

#### Cost of survey and settlement.

**\*31. Babu RISHIKESH MITTER:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state—

- (i) the rate of cost per square mile of survey and settlement according to existing methods; and
- (ii) the rate of cost per square mile of survey and settlement on the basis of aerial survey?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** (i) The rates vary according to local conditions. For Malda, the estimated cost comes to Rs. 1191.35 per square mile.

(ii) Air survey is only in an experimental stage, and it is not possible to say at present what the ultimate cost rate will be. There is every reason to believe that it will be cheaper than existing methods.

3.15 p.m.

**Mr. JOCESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the Government considered that the Amins who do this kind of work will be out of employ and the Air Survey is bound to be less accurate than the actual measurements made in the fields by Amins?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** The matter is still under consideration. It will depend on the results to which I have referred in answer to a previous question. So I cannot say whether it will be less accurate, or more accurate, but so far as the experiment is concerned, it is very satisfactory.

**Mr. JOCESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Is the Hon'ble Member aware that when Amins are employed to measure the land, the people who own the land have an opportunity of seeing, helping and checking the measurements, but that is not the case in the case of an air survey?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** You are more or less advancing an argument and I do not think I should allow that question.

**Mr. JOCESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** It is only a question. I only want to know whether Government overlooked this fact.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** Order, order. I think that point was sufficiently answered by the Hon'ble Member when he said that the whole thing is merely an experiment and that he was not in a position to be very definite about it.

**Mr. JOCESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** I want to know when the question of the unemployment of so many people was concerned, what reason led the Government to launch into such an experiment, the results of which are yet not known.

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** The first reason was that a good deal of peculation could be stopped. The second reason was that in an unhealthy district the work could be done more expeditiously, and the third reason was that the experiment, if proved successful, was bound to be accurate. But as I have said, we have not come to any final decision.

#### Number of Lower Division Selection grade posts in the Bengal Secretariat.

\*32. **Kazi EMDADUL HOQUE:** With reference to the reply given to unstarred question No. 41, at the Council meeting held on

the 11th February, 1929, will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing at present, department by department of the Bengal Secretariat,—

- (i) the number of Lower Division Selection grade posts;
- (ii) the number of these posts already filled up;
- (iii) the number of vacant posts;
- (iv) the number of Lower Division assistants eligible for Lower Division Selection grade posts who could not get them owing to the 10 per cent. limitation; and
- (v) how long the eligible candidates have been drawing Rs. 150?

**MEMBER in charge of FINANCE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McAlpin):** A statement is laid on the table.

*Statement referred to in the reply to starred question No. 32.*

Departments.	Number of Lower Division Selection grade posts.	Number of these posts already filled up.	Number of vacant posts.	Number of Lower Division assistants eligible for Lower Division Selection grade posts who could not get them owing to the ten per cent. limitation.	How long the eligible candidates have been drawing Rs. 150.
Chief Secretary's Office ...	4	2	2	Nil	Does not arise.
Revenue ...	3	1	2	Nil	Ditto.
Finance ...	6	3	3	Nil	Ditto.
Irrigation ...	1	1	Nil	1	Since 15th November, 1927.
Agriculture and Industries	2	2	Nil	Nil	Does not arise.
Local Self-Government ...	2	2	Nil	Nil	Ditto.
Education ...	1	1	Nil	Nil	Ditto.
Public Works ...	3	2	1	Nil	Ditto.
Legislative ...	1	1	Nil	2	One for about 2 years and the other for 4 years 6 months.

**Srijut RADHA GOVINDA RAY:** With reference to column 5 of the statement, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the absence of a general Secretariat ratio between the upper and lower division assistants in the Legislative Department is the cause of this detention?

**The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McALPIN:** I think the question should be addressed to the Member in charge of the Legislative Department.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** Besides, it appears to me to be more or less a matter of opinion, and I do not think Mr. Ray should insist upon an answer.

**Srijut RADHA COVINDA RAY:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state when the present incumbent in the only selection grade post in the Legislative Department is expected normally to retire?

**The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McALPIN:** This question refers to the Legislative Department, and I am not in a position to answer it.

**Kazi EMDADUL HOQUE:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the rule of limitations does not affect the case of the assistants of the Legislative Department referred to in column 5 of the statement; also whether the ratio between upper and lower division posts in the Secretariat has been maintained in the Legislative Department?

**The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McAlpin:** It is again a question for the Legislative Department; however, I might explain for the information of the member that this statement has merely been co-ordinated by the Finance Department.

#### **Alleged sale of new machines in the Jail Press.**

\*33. **Mr. K. C. RAY CHAUDHURI:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the Jail Press new machines imported from England are sold away at a reduced price before they are unpacked?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what steps, if any, do the Government intend to take in the matter?

(c) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, year by year, for the last 10 years—

- (i) the number of machines purchased and sold;
- (ii) the date of their purchase;
- (iii) the date of their sale;
- (iv) original price of each; and
- (v) sale price of each?

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**MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL (JAILS) DEPARTMENT  
(the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter):** (a) and (c) From the statement laid on the table it will be seen that no machines purchased in the last 10 years have been sold.

(b) Does not arise.

*Statement referred to in the reply to clauses (a) and (c) of starred question No. 33.*

Class of machine.	Number.	Date of purchase.	Original cost.	Book value on 1st April, 1901.	Date of sale.	Sale price.
<i>1919-1922.</i>						
No machinery sold.						
<i>1923.</i>						
1. Paper-cutting Machines ..	2	Not traceable as books only go back as far as 1901 and the machines were purchased before that date.	1,646	28th April, 1923 ..	..	900
2. Envelope-punching Machines ..	2		949	Ditto ..	..	200
3. Type-casting Machines ..	4		772	Ditto ..	..	1,375
<i>1924.</i>						
No machinery sold.						
<i>1925.</i>						
1. Printing Machine ..	1	Not traceable as books only go back as far as 1901 and the machines were purchased before that date.	1,040	20th August, 1925 ..	..	1,060
2. Hand Presses ..	26		6,009	Ditto ..	..	5,200
3. Printing Machines ..	3		3,120	1st September, 1925 ..	..	2,550
<i>1926.</i>						
1. Type-casting Machines ..	4	Not traceable as books only go back as far as 1901 and the machines were purchased before that date.	772	12th January, 1926 ..	..	400
2. Hand Press ..	1		232	25th January, 1926 ..	..	345
3. Printing Machine ..	1		1,040	9th February, 1926 ..	..	1,000
4. Hand Press ..	1		58	Ditto ..	..	160
5. Hand-paging Machines ..	2		170	12th February, 1926 ..	..	15
<i>1927.</i>						
1. Wire-sewing Machine ..	1	Not traceable as books only go back as far as 1901 and the machines were purchased before that date.	1,805	19th July, 1927 ..	..	63
2. Book-binder's Hot Press ..	1		192	Ditto ..	..	170
3. Stereo Saw Bench ..	1					
4. Circular Saw Bench ..	1		34	Ditto ..	..	(a) 168
5. Treadle Numbering Machines ..	7		2,100	Ditto ..	..	300
6. Screw Cutting Machines ..	2		812	Ditto ..	..	20
<i>1928.</i>						
7. Stereo Hot Press ..	1	20th June, 1902.	787	..	Ditto ..	..
8. Stereo Saw Bench ..	1	Ditto	213			70
No machinery sold.						

(a) Item No. 8 was sold with items 3 and 4 in one lot by public auction and the whole lot realized Rs. 168 only.

**Eradication of water-hyacinth.**

**\*34. Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department be pleased to state whether it is in the contemplation of Government to take any action in the near future for the eradication of water-hyacinth?

**MEMBER in charge of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Alhadj Sir Abdelkerim Chuznavi):** Yes, but Government are awaiting the introduction of a private Bill on this subject of which notice has been given.

**Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether Government thinks it has a duty in this matter apart from waiting for a private Bill?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** That is no question.

**Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what action Government is contemplating beyond awaiting the introduction of a private Bill?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** Government can only await the Bill first before taking any action.

**Babu SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** Does the Hon'ble Member think that the duty of Government consists in merely waiting?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** That is no question.

**Mr. JOCESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state if Government have received a Bill and propose to take any action on the Bill?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** Government are going to examine that Bill.

**Mr. JOCESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state how many years or decades Government will take in considering the Bill?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** That is no question; I do not allow that.

**Mr. JOCESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** I ask how long will Government take to consider this Bill?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** That is more or less an insinuation. You know that is not permissible.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to enlighten the House as to how long Government will take in considering the Bill that has been sent long ago?

**Mr. E. C. ORMOND:** On a point of order, Sir, is the supplementary question in order? Does it arise out of the main question?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** The point is that the members are anxious to know whether this Bill is being considered by Government and whether Government is doing all that could possibly be done in the matter.

**Mr. E. C. ORMOND:** With due respect to your decision, will it not be time for these questions when the Bill is introduced?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** I think not for the simple reason that these questions are not questions with regard to the details of the Bill. In the present case, the questioners want to have an idea of time.

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** Government must consider and wait till the Bill comes before the Council.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Is the Hon'ble Member aware that the Bill embodies mainly resolutions which were accepted by Government in previous conferences over this matter?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** I understand that some of the resolutions that were passed at the Conference in Dacca have been embodied in the Bill.

**Dr. KUMUD SANKAR RAY:** Does the Hon'ble Member know of any new proposal suggested in the Bill in addition to what was accepted in the Government Conference?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** The Hon'ble Member should not have answered Mr. Gupta's question and should not answer this. Supplementary questions, I think, should arise out of and be intimately connected with the main question. The main question was put to elicit informations with regard to Government's actions for the eradication of water-hyacinth. The principal questions did not make enquiries about the Bill, so I think it is better not to ask any question about the details of the Bill.

**Babu SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** On a point of information, Sir, do not your remarks relate to the questions originally put, as well as the replies given by the Hon'ble Member?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** Yes, it is so; but each case has got to be judged by its merits.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** May I know whether in view of the reply given by the Hon'ble Member that Government are awaiting the introduction of a private Bill on the subject, this question might not arise?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** It does not, although some broad questions may be put about the Bill since the Hon'ble Member has mentioned it in his answer. What I mean to say is that until the Bill has been introduced in the Council, members putting supplementary questions should not press for informations with regard to its details only because the Bill has been casually mentioned in the Hon'ble Member's reply.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Were the Government expecting any private member to bring forward a Bill on the subject?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** I do not allow that question.

#### Water-hyacinth pest.

\*35. **Rai SATYENDRA NATH ROY CHOUDHURI Bahadur:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department be pleased to state whether the Government intend to take any early step to combat the water-hyacinth pest in Bengal?

(b) If so, when and in what way?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** (a) and (b) The member is referred to the reply given to a starred question on the subject put by Maulvi Tamizuddin Khan at this meeting.

#### Water-hyacinth pest.

\*36. **Kaviraj BIMALANANDA TARKATHIRTHA:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of Agriculture and Industries Department be pleased to state whether any effective scheme has been framed for the eradication of the water-hyacinth pest in Bengal?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, when will it be put into action?

(c) If there is no such effective scheme, when do the Government expect the same to be ready?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** (a) No, so far as the Government of Bengal are aware.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As soon as an effective scheme is discovered.

**Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state, with reference to answer (c), what efforts are being made by Government to discover an effective scheme?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** All avenues are being explored.

**Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY:** What are the avenues?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** Some of them will be found in the Bill that is going to be introduced by a member opposite, and others consist of all reports received so far.

**Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state at least some of the avenues mentioned in the Bill?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** I must refer the member to a copy of the Bill.

3-30 p.m.

**Mr. A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ:** Since when Government has begun to seriously consider the question of eradicating water-hyacinth pest?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** Since about the 1921-22.

**Mr. A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ:** What particular steps have the Government taken since then for the eradication of the pest?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** Government have been devoting a great deal of attention to this question since those years. In 1923-24 a certain spray was examined. Thereafter a Special Officer was deputed to make other inquiries. Suggestions from various quarters were also invited. Finally in 1927 a conference was held at Dacca regarding water-hyacinth.

**Mr. A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ:** Has any practical step been taken in any district?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** Some experiments were made in certain districts. But no definite action can be taken until a Bill is introduced in this House.

**Mr. A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ:** Experiments in what districts?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** One of the districts is Faridpur, but as regards giving an accurate information I would ask for notice.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Is the Hon'ble Member aware that in Faridpur the District Magistrate reported the annual damage was Rs. 47½ lakhs, but yet no steps were taken by Government?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** Yes, the District Officer, Mr. Burrows, did make a report to that effect, but no action can be taken purely with regard to one district. Action has got to be taken with regard to the whole province.

**Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether or not there was a Water-hyacinth Committee?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** Yes.

**Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH:** Has the committee submitted a report? If so, when?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** The committee did submit a report, but I cannot tell the exact date. I would ask for notice.

#### Income from palm trees.

\*37. **Babu MANMATHA NATH ROY:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Agriculture and Industries (Excise) Department be pleased to state the income derived during the year 1928 in respect of palm trees from—

- (1) taxation; and
- (2) licence fees?

(b) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that the union board chaukidars and dafadars have to supply information for purposes of taxation and licence?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether any portion of the income referred to in (a) is given to the union boards?

**MEMBER in charge of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (EXCISE) DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McAlpin):**

(a) Figures of revenue from *tari* for 1928-29 are given below:—

- (1) Tree-tax—Rs. 5,50,706.
- (2) Licence fees—Rs. 4,24,832.

(b) The answer is in the negative.

(c) The question does not arise.

**Babu MANMATHA NATH ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what is the source of information as embodied in his reply (b)?

**The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McALPIN:** I drafted that myself. The source was the Excise Commissioner. He reported that what the village chaukidars and dafadars have to do is as follows:—

The village chaukidars and dafadars along with village headmen and panchayets and others are legally bound under section 72 of the Bengal Excise Act to give information about the manufacture of excisable articles to the Magistrate or to an officer of the Excise or to the Police Department. But no information is supplied by them for the purpose of tax and licence.

**River Kalindri in Malda.**

**\*38. Babu ROMES CHANDRA BACCHI:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Irrigation Department be pleased to state whether any attempt was made by the Department to excavate the mouth of the river Kalindri in the district of Malda for removing silt at its junction with the Ganges with a view to improve the river?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the result thereof?

**MEMBER in charge of IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Alhadj Sir Abdelkerim Chuznavi):** (a) No; removal of silt from the mouth of the Kalindri at its junction with the Ganges is not likely to improve the river.

(b) The question does not arise.

**Babu ROMES CHANDRA BACCHI:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state how did the Government come to know that the removal of silt from the mouth of the Kalindri river will not improve the river?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** The bed of the Kalindri river is higher than the level of the Ganges. Hence if the mouth of the Kalindri river is excavated it is unlikely that the water would flow from the Ganges.

**Bundh near the new sluice gate under construction at Mustafapur in the Bil route area.**

**\*38. Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Irrigation Department be pleased to state—

- (i) whether it is a fact that it was proclaimed by beat of drum that the *bundh* near the new sluice gate under construction at Mustafapur in the Bil route area would be opened on the 15th *Jaista* last;
- (ii) whether in spite of the aforesaid proclamation the *bundh* was opened at night without any notice to the people on the 30th *Baisakh* last; and
- (iii) whether it is a fact that on account of this opening without any warning all the standing crops including ripe *aus* paddy over a large tract of land were completely destroyed causing acute distress to thousands of helpless cultivators?

(b) If the answers to (a) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state who is responsible for this opening of the *bundh*?

(c) Are the Government considering the desirability of instituting an inquiry into the matter?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** (a) (i) No.  
(ii) The *bundh* was breached on the night of 12th May last (corresponding to 29th *Baisakh*).

(iii) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No.

**Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether any inquiry was made as to any possible damage done by the breach?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** Yes.

**Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** When was that inquiry made?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** Since notice of this question was given.

#### River Chandana.

**\*40. Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** (a) With reference to the reply given to starred question No. 81 at the Bengal Legislative Council meeting held on the 18th March, 1929, will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Irrigation Department be pleased to state whether the contemplated inquiry as to the scheme to connect the river Chandana in its lower reaches with the river Barasia has already commenced?

(b) If so, when is the inquiry to be completed?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** (a) Yes.

(b) By October next.

**Dr. KUMUD SANKAR RAY:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state when was the original inquiry regarding the reclamation of the river Chandana begun?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** Since the question was put by Dr. Kumud Sankar Ray in March, 1929. Surveys were made in 1927-28 during the flood season.

**Dr. KUMUD SANKAR RAY:** Is it a fact that the inquiry was begun six years ago?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** I am afraid I have nothing more to add to what I have already said.

**Dr. KUMUD SANKAR RAY:** When are the results of the inquiry likely to be given effect to?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** I am afraid I do not possess the power of prophesying.

#### Filling up of vacancies in the Government Presses.

**\*41. Mr. K. C. RAY CHAUDHURI:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that it is an established convention with the Government Presses that when a vacancy occurs preference is given to one of those who lost their jobs due to reduction?

(b) Is it a fact that recently some outsiders have been taken as compositors in the Bengal Government Press solely on the recommendation of the overseer, rejecting the claims of a number of old men who lost their jobs owing to reduction?

(c) If the reply to (b) is in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of instituting an inquiry into the matter and of laying a copy of the result of the inquiry on the table?

**The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McALPIN:** (a) Applications are considered on their merits and one of the factors to which consideration is given is previous service.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

#### A public road in Kushtia subdivision.

\*42. **Mr. K. C. RAY CHAUDHURI:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the villagers of Etmampur, Jadubogra and Satina within the jurisdiction of Kushtia subdivision, in the district of Nadia, have submitted a memorial to His Excellency the Governor of Bengal on the 14th September, 1928, making serious allegations against local zamindars?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether any action is contemplated by the Government? If so, when and what?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** (a) A petition was received from one Babu Surendra Nath Ghosh of Baranagore praying for the opening of a public road, in village Etmampur in Kushtia subdivision, alleged to have been closed by certain zamindars.

(b) The petition has been forwarded to the Collector for disposal.

**Maulvi SHAMSUDDIN AHMED:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether any action has been taken by the Collector of Nadia as regards the petition?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** We have referred the matter to the Collector. Beyond that I cannot say anything more.

**River Atharabanki.**

**\*43. Rai SATYENDRA NATH ROY CHOWDHURI Bahadur:**

(a) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Irrigation Department aware of the fact that a portion of the river Atharabanki has silted up considerably causing great inconvenience to the steamer service from Khulna to Barisal?

(b) Is it a fact that the dredging of this portion was sanctioned and taken up last year but was stopped as it was late?

(c) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking up the dredging of this portion early this year, so that there may be no inconvenience to the steamer service during the dry season?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** (a) Yes. The silting of the river is an annual occurrence.

(b) The shoals were dredged twice last year: the dredging was not stopped because it was late.

(c) Yes.

**Rai SATYENDRA NATH ROY CHOWDHURI Bahadur:** Is it a fact that after the so-called twice-dredging last year the Express steamer from Khulna to Barisal could not pass through that way during certain part of the year?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** I am afraid I must ask for fresh notice.

**Unstarred Questions**

(answers to which were laid on the table).

**Sealdah Police Court.**

**44. Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the courtyard of the Sealdah Police Court remains submerged sometimes under knee-deep water after a heavy downpour?

(b) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking any action in the matter? If so, when?

(c) Is it a fact that there is no shed or shelter in the said Court for the litigants who are obliged to suffer the inclemency of the weather?

(d) What action, if any, do the Government propose to take in the matter, and when?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** (a) It is reported that after a heavy downpour the compound of the Sealdah Police Court goes under water, but the water which accumulates is not knee-deep.

(b) Yes; now.

(c) There is no separate shed set apart for litigants; there is a portico and a verandah in which they can take shelter from the rain, but the accommodation is insufficient.

(d) Estimates will be called for.

#### Floods in Jalpaiguri.

**45. Mr. PROSANNA DEB RAIKAT:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Revenue Department aware that some parts of the district of Jalpaiguri have been seriously affected by the recent floods in the district?

(b) If so, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to relieve the distress of the people in the affected area?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** (a) There was a serious flood at Alipur Duars in the first few days of July.

(b) No serious distress has been reported. Immediate steps that were necessary were taken by the Subdivisional Officer. On the information at the disposal of Government, no further action is called for.

#### Assessment of cess revaluation in Nadia.

**46. Maulvi SHAMSUDDIN AHMED:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement for the district of Nadia showing—

- (i) the total assessment of the recent cess revaluation;
- (ii) the previous income from cess; and
- (iii) the difference, if any, in percentage between the recent and the previous cess revaluation?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** A statement showing the information is laid on the table.

- (i) Rs. 3,24,642.
- (ii) Rs. 1,95,743.
- (iii) 77·11.

**Mr. D. N. ROY:** Is the Hon'ble Member aware the assessment of the recent cess revaluation has been made in a way which is contrary to the legal provisions?

[8TH AUG.,

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** So far as I am aware, that is not so.

**Maulvi SHAMSUDDIN AHMED:** In what other districts the cess revaluation has taken place?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** So far as I remember, in Pabna and Bogra recently.

**Maulvi SHAMSUDDIN AHMED:** What is the percentage of difference between the previous and the recent cess revaluation?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I want notice.

**Issue of Government order prohibiting Government officials from buying "Liberty" paper.**

**47. Babu SURENDRA MOHAN MOITRA:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state whether the Government officials have been prohibited from buying the daily paper *Liberty* by any order or circular whatsoever, whether confidential or otherwise?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the order or circular in question?

**MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly):** (a) No order has been issued prohibiting Government officials from buying copies of the daily paper *Liberty*. As an injunction had been issued against the *New Forward*, it was thought advisable that departments of Government should not subscribe to *Liberty* until it was seen whether any action was taken in Court about it. An order was accordingly issued, but has now been withdrawn.

(b) A copy is laid on the table.

*Order referred to in the reply to clause (b) of unstarred question No. 47.*

Memorandum No. 250-71 P. S. D., dated Darjeeling, the 15th May, 1929, from the Political Department of the Government of Bengal.

Pending further orders, the Governor in Council directs that no department of Government shall subscribe to the newspaper *Liberty* now being issued in place of the *Forward* and *New Forward*.

L. G. WALLIS,

for Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal (off.).

To all Secretaries and Heads of Departments.

**Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state how many days after the first publication of *Liberty* the order was passed?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** I am afraid I do not know when the *Liberty* was first published. The date will be found on the paper.

**Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the date from which the order was withdrawn?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** About the end of July—I think the 29th.

**Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state if this prohibitory order had any connection with the general election that was going on in the Province then?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** No, no connection whatever.

**Babu SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** May I ask what led the Government to think that action might be taken against *Liberty* because action had been taken against *Forward*?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** The reason is obvious.

**Babu SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** Does the Hon'ble Member think that the reason that is obvious to him would be equally obvious to the House?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** That is no question.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the name *Liberty* is objectionable to him?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** I have no objection to what a gentleman calls his paper.

**Babu BARODA PRASANNA PAIN:** Can the Hon'ble Member assure the House that no action would be taken against *Liberty* in future?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** That is no question.

**Rules with regard to pension on retirement at 55 years of age to officers in Bengal Services.**

**48. Mr. SYAMAPROSAD MOOKERJEE:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state—

(i) what the present rules are with regard to pension on retirement at 55 years of age, as applicable to officers in the Bengal Services recruited between 25 and 30 years of age; and

(ii) whether the same rules apply to officers in the Bengal Educational Service who have been subsequently promoted to that service from the subordinate service to which they were recruited between 25 and 30 years of age?

(b) If the answer to (a) (ii) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of making the rules uniform?

**The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McALPIN:** (a) (i) Part IV of the Civil Service Regulations and particularly Articles 404 and 404A, C. S. R., may be seen.

(ii) No. Articles 404 and 404A, C. S. R., are not applicable to officers promoted from the subordinate service.

(b) Government are not considering the desirability of making the rules uniform.

**Mr. SYAMAPROSAD MOOKERJEE:** Is the Hon'ble Member aware that there is no difference in the nature of duties of the officers under (a) (i) and (a) (ii) of his reply?

**The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McALPIN:** I want notice of that question.

#### Water-hyacinth.

**48. Mr. JOGESW CHANDRA GUPTA:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department be pleased to state whether the Government are aware that the water-hyacinth menace is increasing every day?

(b) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that after the recent flood in Silchar and Sylhet a huge quantity of water-hyacinth has drifted into the waterways of this province causing heavy damage and interruption to traffic?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** (a) Government have no definite information. In some places an increase is reported.

(b) No, but it is not impossible that some water-hyacinth came down with the river in flood.

**Proposed Water-hyacinth Bill by Mr. J. C. Gupta.**

**50. Mr. JOCESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department be pleased to state whether the Government have received copies of the Water-hyacinth Bill drafted by Mr. J. C. Gupta, M.L.C., with a request to obtain the sanction of the Governor-General under sub-section (3) of section 80A of the Government of India Act and also to publish the Bill under rule 47 of the Bengal Legislative Council Rules?

(b) If so, have the Government taken any steps to obtain the sanction?

(c) Do the Government intend to publish the Bill under rule 47?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** (a) Yes, during the life-time of the last Council.

(b) All action was abandoned with the dissolution of the Council.

A fresh notice has since been received and necessary action will be taken.

(c) The question of publication does not arise until the sanction of the Governor-General to the clauses of the Bill requiring such sanction has been obtained.

**Mr. JOCESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** In connection with the answer (b) will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what action was taken after the dissolution of the Council? Will he also be pleased to state what prevented the Department of Government to carry on their work even after the dissolution of the Council?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** The hon'ble member's Bill died with the dissolution of the Council.

**Mr. JOCESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the Government began to consider the matter because the Bill has been introduced or otherwise Government did not feel disposed to consider the matter?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** Since the Bill was already there Government thought it necessary to consider the Bill before taking any action.

#### Eradication of water-hyacinth pest.

**51. Srijut JOCENDRA NATH MOITRA:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department aware of the damage done to crops by the growth and spread of water-hyacinth pest in Lower Bengal?

(b) How long has the question of the eradication of water-hyacinth been before the Government?

(c) Have the Government inquired into the amount of loss done to the crops every year by this pest?

(d) If the answer to (c) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state, approximately—

(i) the acreage affected; and

(ii) the amount of damage done to crops each year?

(e) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what steps, if any, the Government are proposing to take in the matter?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** (a) Yes.

(b) Since 1921.

(c) Yes, but no complete provincial estimate has been prepared.

(d) (i) and (ii) Do not arise.

(e) The member is referred to the answer given to a starred question on the subject put by Maulvi Tamizuddin Khan at this meeting.

**Srijut JOCENDRA NATH MOITRA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the Government are going to institute an inquiry into the matter referred to in question (d)?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** I cannot answer the question offhand. I must ask for notice.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Is the Hon'ble Member aware that the Government constituted in 1924 did carry on investigation to ascertain the acreage and the amount of damage done when Mr. G. S. Dutt was Secretary in charge of the Agricultural Department?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** I am afraid I cannot answer the question offhand.

**Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY:** As the Hon'ble Member constantly refers to Mr. J. C. Gupta's Bill, will he allow Mr. Gupta to answer all the questions regarding this matter?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** Mr. Roy, I do not expect you to waste the time of the Council in this fashion.

**Embankment along bil route canal in Faridpur.**

**52. Mr. SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Irrigation Department aware—

- (i) that the embankment along the Bil route canal in the Faridpur district is damaged at several places;
- (ii) that as a result of these damages the land on either side is flooded during several months in the year; and
- (iii) that this flooding causes considerable damage to the crops in that locality?

(b) What steps, if any, do the Government propose to take to repair the embankment?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** (a) (i) The embankment has been inspected very recently. Government are advised that the embankment is in good order throughout.

(a) (ii) and (iii) and (b) Do not arise.

**Embankments Nos. 3, 5, 18 and 19 of Schedule to Embankment Act.**

**53. Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY:** With reference to the reply given to starred question No. 79 at the meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council held on the 16th March, 1929, will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Irrigation Department be pleased to state—

- (i) the circumstances leading to the obstruction of the passage of floods for which embankments Nos. 3, 5, 18 and 19 of Schedule D to the Bengal Embankment Act, 1873 (Ben. Act VI of 1873) (originally constructed by zamindars as flood protective work), were abolished;
- (ii) the reasons for keeping in abeyance the work of the construction of an escape weir at Kushpota near Ghatal;
- (iii) whether the zamindars and patnidars had instituted any proceedings with the Collector for setting aside the order of abandonment;
- (iv) if so, what was the result of these proceedings;
- (v) the reasons for not consulting the Embankment Committee before abandoning the said embankments; and
- (vi) whether Government are now considering any remedial measures to prevent flood in the area?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** (i) The embankments in question have been an obstruction to the disposal of the floods ever since they were constructed.

(ii) Because the abandonment of the Ghatal circuit embankment has led to the reduction in flood levels in this locality.

(iii) Yes.

(iv) The appeals were dismissed.

(v) Because there were no specific Government orders to do so. A circular has, however, since been issued directing that Embankment Committees should be consulted in all cases of abandonment of Schedule 'D' embankments.

(vi) Yes. It is proposed to construct an escape at Harisinghpore on the Selye and a sluice at Gopigange.

**Rai SATYENDRA NATH ROY CHOUDHURI Bahadur:** With reference to answer (vi), will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state when will the construction be taken in hand and how long will it take to finish?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** I cannot answer it offhand.

#### Gumti flood.

**54. Babu AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Irrigation Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Babu Akhil Chandra Datta moved a resolution in the Bengal Legislative Council on 23rd January, 1917, demanding that immediate steps should be taken to protect from damage by floods the areas of land on the two sides of the Gumti river in the district of Tippera?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government—

(i) accepted Mr. Datta's resolution;

(ii) admitted that the embankments were an entire mistake and were doing a lot of harm;

(iii) promised to assume direct responsibility for the embankments; and

(iv) promised to give effect to Mr. Datta's suggestion of making a catchment basin in the upper reaches of the river?

(c) Is it a fact that the Government have since taken charge of the embankments and declared them public embankments?

(d) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what action, if any, has since been taken by the Government to redeem the promise of making a catchment basin?

(e) If no action has yet been taken, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reason therefor?

(f) Have the Government taken any steps since assumption of direct responsibility of the embankments to solve the problem of Gumti floods?

(g) If not, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether any preventive measures are now under contemplation or consideration of Government?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** (a) Yes.

(b) (i) Yes.

(ii) Yes.

(iii) Government promised to enter into correspondence with Tripura State with a view to assuming direct responsibility for the embankments.

(iv) No.

(c) Yes.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The question of constructing a flood regulating reservoir was gone into, but there were difficulties in the way, such as the eventual silting up of such a reservoir, the submergence of a large area of paddy land and interference with navigation, which led Government to drop the proposal.

(f) The embankments have been kept in good order to withstand ordinary floods and breaches have been less frequent than they were.

(g) It is intended to look into the question of the construction of escapes to deal with extraordinary floods like that of the current year.

### Gumti embankments.

**55. Babu AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Irrigation Department be pleased to state—

(a) the total amount of tax—

(i) levied, and

(ii) collected by the Government from the people since the declaration of the Gumti embankments as public embankments; and

(b) the total amount which has been actually spent for the upkeep or improvement of these embankments?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** (a) (i) The total amount assessed is Rs. 1,60,513.

(ii) Rs. 1,25,540.

(b) Rs. 1,76,214.

### River Boral.

**Srijut JOCENDRA NATH MOITRA:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Irrigation Department aware that about two years ago a joint report was submitted by the Directors of Agriculture and Public Health in connection with the irrigation of the river Boral in the districts of Rajshahi and Pabna?

(b) What steps, if any, does the Hon'ble Member propose to take in the matter and in view of the remarks made by the aforesaid Directors?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** (a) Yes.

(b) Preliminary investigations have been made and the results will now be considered with a view to drawing up a scheme for the improvement of the river, if possible.

**Srijut JOCENDRA NATH MOITRA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state when will the scheme be ready?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** The Superintending Engineer's Report has only been received on the 6th July. It is now under consideration.

**Babu SURENDRA MOHAN MOITRA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what he means by preliminary investigations in answer to the question (b)?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** Gauge reading taken with the level of the water in different places.

**Babu SURENDRA MOHAN MOITRA:** When were these preliminary investigations made?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** I am afraid I cannot give the date offhand. I ask for notice.

**Sunthi river in Barasat.**

**57. Maulvi MUHAMMAD SAADATULLAH:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Irrigation Department aware that the silted up Sunthi river in the Barasat subdivision in the 24-Parganas district remains full of water-hyacinth and other kinds of noxious vegetation leading to the spread of malaria in virulent form?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what steps, if any, the Government propose to take to keep it in good and sanitary condition?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** (a) Complaints to this effect have been received.

(b) An application should be submitted to the Collector under section 3 of the Agricultural and Sanitary Improvement Act (Act VI of 1920) by any one desiring the improvement of this old river bed.

**Maulvi MUHAMMAD SAADATULLAH:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state when the complaints were received and from whom?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** I would ask for notice.

**Maulvi MUHAMMAD SAADATULLAH:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what steps have been taken to meet the complaints?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** An estimate amounting to Rs. 10,18,000 has been received from the Superintending Engineer, South. This is a case which comes under Act VI of 1920. That is the proper course. Government has already spent considerable sum over Nori and Ichapur khals.

**Maulvi MUHAMMAD SAADATULLAH:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether Government does not mean to do anything in the interest of public health?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** That is no question.

**Dead rivers of Jessor.**

**58. Kaviraj BIMALANANDA TARKATHIRTHA:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Irrigation Department be pleased to lay on the table all the papers and schemes regarding re-excavation or dredging of Bhairab, Kabadok and other silted rivers of Jessor?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** The papers are very voluminous. Government do not consider that any useful purpose will be served by placing so many papers on the table. Information on specific points will be willingly supplied.

**Mr. D. N. ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether there is any scheme under consideration of Government at present regarding the re-excavation and the dredging of the Bhairab?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** Yes.

**Mr. D. N. ROY:** How long has it been under the consideration of Government?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** I would ask for notice.

**Mr. D. N. ROY:** Can the Hon'ble Member state what would be the estimated cost of that scheme?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** I would ask for fresh notice.

#### **Motion for adjournment of the Business of the Council.**

**Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY:** I beg to ask leave of the House to move an adjournment of the business of this House for the purpose of discussing a matter of urgent public importance. Have I your permission, Sir?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** Leave has been asked by Dr. Roy to move the following motion: "That the business of the Council be adjourned for the purpose of discussing the recent mill strikes near Calcutta, the situation thus created, the disturbances and consequent loss of life that have arisen in connection therewith."

Is there any objection of this motion?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** On a point of order, Sir. May I ask whether His Excellency has raised any objection to this?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** This will of course be forwarded to His Excellency. At present I am not in a position to give you the information you ask for. I may tell you this much that my allowance of the motion is subject to the decision which His Excellency may arrive at. As there is no objection in the House I fix to-morrow as the day and 5 p.m. as the hour for Dr. Roy to move his motion.

**Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER:** Am I in order, Sir, if I raise any objection at this stage?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** I cannot allow you to do so now. You had your opportunity.

**Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA:** Sir, we do not mind if Mr. Campbell Forrester is given the right to object even at this stage because the requisite number of 30 is present here.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** I know you are quite confident of success but as Mr. Campbell Forrester did not seize his opportunity at the right moment I cannot allow him to raise any objection at this stage.

### Resolutions

#### (on matters of general public interest).

The debate on the resolution regarding compulsory physical training and military drill in all schools and colleges was then resumed.

**Mr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE:** In rising to support the resolution moved by my hon'ble friend, Babu Bejoy Krishna Bose, I think it would have been of considerable help to us if we had an opportunity of listening to the opinions of one of the members of the Education Department on this vital question. In particular, Sir, I would have liked to hear the views of my hon'ble friend, the Director of Public Instruction, Mr. Stapleton, whose passionate devotion to the cause of physical education or towards the University itself made him declare only last year, when he assumed charge of his present office, that Bengal would not lose anything but gain much if the Calcutta University were shut down for a number of years and the Bengalis did nothing but pursue a course of physical education. Such a remarkable utterance, which no doubt embodied a new type of educational idealism, peculiar, I suppose, to the Education Department of the Government of Bengal, has fortunately or unfortunately not yet been followed in practice. I have been reliably informed—I do not know how far the information is accurate—that one of the reasons why the scheme has been dropped is that some high official—perhaps more experienced than Mr. Stapleton—had warned him that any pursuance of that scheme might ultimately bring about the abolition of the post of the Director of Public Instruction, if not of the post of the Principal of Presidency College itself!

Coming now to the resolution itself, I shall endeavour to acquaint the House with the steps which have been taken hitherto by the University of Calcutta in this matter and the attitude of Government towards the proposals which were from time to time made by the University. Sir, nearly 10 years ago, mainly through the efforts of one of our distinguished countrymen, Sir Nilratan Sarkar, who was then our Vice-Chancellor, a Students' Welfare Committee was set up in the University. With the help of a number of well-trained doctors, the University has during these years carried most useful investigations into the conditions of health of our students. The report of this committee, issued annually, discloses a most serious state of things so far as the health of a large number of our students is concerned. My hon'ble friend, Babu Bejoy Krishna Bose, placed some of these staggering details before the House in his speech of yesterday.

In 1924 when Sir Ewart Greaves was Vice-Chancellor of the University, on my motion the Senate appointed a committee to inquire into the question of imparting physical training and, if possible, also military training to our students. This committee had on it several distinguished educationists, including Mr. Stapleton himself, and also a number of doctors, representing both the official and the non-official points of view. We had on this committee men like Sir Nilratan Sarkar, Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, Col. Coppinger and last though not the least Rai Bahadur Dr. Upendra Nath Bramhachari. This committee inquired into the whole question and the two fundamental recommendations they placed before the Senate, which were accepted by that body in 1925, were as follows: Some form of drill or physical exercise, the committee thought, should be made part of the school curriculum and the colleges should be asked to introduce compulsory drill or games. The school authorities were also called upon to see to the proper nutrition of students in their charge. Sir, I need not go into the details of the scheme which the committee submitted. That was their first recommendation. The second proposal was that for all students in colleges affiliated to the University and for all students reading in the University classes, military training should be made compulsory. Sir, I will ask the House to pause here for one moment and exactly realise the significance of this resolution. That resolution, Sir, I feel, embodied a new spirit and a new ideal in our educational system. The Senate of the University, as is well known, is an official-ridden body: out of 100 members, 80 are nominated by the head of the Government of Bengal. Even such a body in 1926 presided over by one of the most distinguished Judges of the Calcutta High Court came to the conclusion that for all students in the colleges and in the University classes, military training should be made compulsory. The Director of Public Instruction is a member of the Senate

along with many other officials and in vain did I search through the proceedings of the Senate of that date to find one word of protest from any member belonging to that group.

Now, Sir, I have a very woeful tale to tell. This report was sent to the Government of Bengal in 1925. For 14 months there was no reply from the Bengal Secretariat. It took 14 months for the reply to reach College Square from Dalhousie Square. I need not pause to inquire whether this delay was due to the fault of the postal authorities or it is merely another instance of the efficient administration of the Education Department. But there it is. We received a reply after 14 months to the effect that Government generally approved of the scheme so far as physical training was concerned. But so far as military training was concerned, Government was unable to give its approval. Even as regards physical training Government conveyed its blessings to the University but added at the same time that an amount of 4 lakhs of rupees which it calculated would be necessary for the purpose of paying the salaries of trained physical instructors would not possibly be forthcoming from the public revenues. That amount, it was pointed out, had got to be raised by levying extra fees. So far as military training was concerned, I wish, Sir, in the Government letter no reasons had been at all given for its refusal to consider the scheme. That would have been consistent with the policy which the Hon'ble Members of Government from time to time adopt, that is, for reasons of public policy grounds are not to be given in justification of particular decisions. In this instance the reasons given can be classified under three principal heads. The first of course is the inevitable plea of financial stringency. Even if the scheme is desirable, who is to pay? Obviously Government cannot undertake to pay for this purpose, though it can for other less desiring causes! Secondly, our students are not physically fit for real military training and Government proceeded to amplify this particular proposition and said something of an astounding character which, I believe, will stagger even the present Member of Government. Government doubted if marching and camping life in which caste rules could not always be observed would at all be popular among students. How mindful, Sir, Government is of the rigidity of our caste rules! Might I ask, Sir, on how many occasions have such difficulties arisen in connection with the University Corps? The last reason was that there might be fierce opposition from many of the students. How very careful, Sir, Government is about the fierceness of opposition which may come from some interested quarters when schemes of reform are mooted! When it is a question of placing reactionary measures on the Statute Book, I do not think Government would accept the same point of view and would adopt its policy in the light of fierce opposition that may emanate from the public. Well, Sir,

these were the three reasons which were put forward by Government in expressing its inability to accept the scheme of the Senate. There was no doubt a suggestion thrown out that the University Corps might be developed, but so far as compulsory military training was concerned, that was unacceptable to Government.

In the meantime, the opinions of schools and colleges were being obtained by the University and Headmasters of schools were very anxious that some definite step should be taken by the University in this matter. But they represented to the University and with perfect justification that it was necessary that substantial help must be forthcoming to enable the schools to maintain a proper staff of physical instructors. When the reply was received from Government, the Senate referred it to another committee—this time presided over by the then Vice-Chancellor, Sir Jadunath Sarkar, no doubt a highly distinguished person in the eyes of Government. This committee recommended that financial assistance must come from Government, if not to the extent of four lakhs of rupees which were necessary for the purpose of meeting the whole expenditure on salaries of physical instructors, at any rate to a considerable extent so as to relieve the slender resources of the schools. As regards military training, the Senate of the University even in 1927 under the presidency of Sir Jadunath Sarkar reiterated its previous resolution. It was no doubt specified that for the time being the scheme of development of this University Corps might be pursued but the Senate was of opinion that Government should proceed to frame a definite scheme for imparting compulsory military training to our students. These resolutions were communicated to Government in July, 1927, and to-day it is the 8th of August 1929. I inquired of the Registrar of the University this morning whether any reply had been received from Government yet and the answer was, as was expected, in the negative. This discloses the measure of interest taken by Government in the matter.

The resolution at present before the House is practically on the same lines adopted by the University. Sir, this is a matter of national importance and of national interest. It has been declared that we cannot hope to advance unless we can turn out men capable of shouldering the burdens of self-government and of defence properly. I might, Sir, adopt the language of the Shea Committee Report and say that education for the purpose of spreading military training and the inspiration of military service among the manhood of India should commence in schools. The question is: What is the Government going to do? If they do not wish to accept the resolution, let them say so. But let this not be done on the ground of financial stringency or on the unworthy plea that our young men are not strong enough to benefit from such a scheme or that they will be opposed to it. Let Government say frankly and openly that they do not want to satisfy

the aspirations of the youths of Bengal in this direction. Let them say that the system of education which deprives the students of the necessary qualities of courage, of resource, of initiative and of free thinking is the system which they desire to see perpetuated in this country.

But, Sir, there is another alternative. The Hon'ble Member for Education, laying aside his financial conscience for a moment, may rise equal to the occasion. Will he declare that in this instance Government is prepared to prove its *bona fide* and sincerity in the profession it so often makes that it is trying to help India to take her appropriate place among the civilised nations of the world? Let him declare, Sir, that Government is in agreement with the general principle of the resolution and that it will take steps on the right lines. We want a declaration of policy on this question which will introduce a new era in the history of education in this province.

[At 4.30 p.m. the Council was adjourned and it reassembled at 5.15 p.m.]

**Babu SURENDRA MOHAN MOITRA:** Sir, I extend my cordial support to the resolution moved by my friend Mr. Bejoy Krishna Bose. It is in the fitness of things that an erstwhile captain of the Congress Volunteers has moved this resolution, which is already overdue. I would have liked it much if he had included in his resolution a recommendation for compulsory physical training for girls because their health and physique are as much necessary for our natural well-being as those of the boys. Nay, it is more important as without healthy mothers a nation cannot be healthy.

However the resolution as it is, is a consummation to be devoutly wished for. Sir, whenever we have made demands for our political emancipation it has been constantly dinned into our ears that being unfit to defend our country we are incapable of getting political freedoms. We are told that if we become a free nation and if the British troops leave the Indian shores, we shall be an easy prey to foreign aggression. Having impoverished us by exploitation and thus having weakened and emasculated us physically as we have hardly any means to withstand the ravages of diseases like malaria, etc., and having denied us any military training it does not lie in the mouth of the Government to parade this weakness of ours before the world against our just right of self-government. If we are crying for Swaraj our cry is also coupled with the desire to maintain the Swaraj. It is for this reason that our party has tabled this resolution. Our European friends on the other side of the House are always very loud in their profession of sympathy with what they think to be our just grievance. Now here is an acid test of their sincerity. Will they join their voice with that of us in this matter? May we ask whether

it is too much to ask for this training for our boys? I ask a straight question and I pause for a straight answer and no camouflage. Sir, during the last Congress when a volunteer corps was organised by our beloved young leader Srijut Subhas Chandra Bose, the Anglo-Indian papers tried to cover the whole organisation along with Srijut Subhas Chandra, the idol of young India, with ridicule. Satires and innuendoes were requisitioned to phoofoo the organisation as if the whole organisation was a farce, a mockery. If that were mockery here is an invitation to them to help us in having something real.

If, according to the Government, the primary duty is to maintain law and order, is it not their duty as well to keep the people in good health and physique? Mr. Bose gave yesterday appalling figures of the physical disabilities of our rising generation. May I ask, Sir, whether it is not the paramount duty of the Government to remedy this? Here is a solution offered by us. Will the Government accept it or brush it aside with supreme indifference simply because it comes from the Swarajists? Sir, I have no misgiving that the Government reply will be either evasive or a total refusal because they will scent danger—an attempt at a revolution—in this resolution, as it does not come from the other side of the House, who are all defenders of the constitution. But I warn the Government that if they will not pay serious attention to this question and soon devise a means to remedy this grievance of ours, the responsibility will be entirely theirs. Will the Government read the signs of the time in their proper perspective or will they sit tight in the pride of their power oblivious of the things that are happening all around. We are determined to win Swaraj and we are equally determined to shoulder the necessary responsibilities for which purpose we are out to equip ourselves even without the Government help, if they will not care to come by our side. Look around with eyes open and you will find volunteer organisations are cropping up everywhere. Our young men to-day are not what they were a few years back. Grim determination is written on their foreheads. They are bent upon achieving the fulfilment of their hope—the salvation of their country. They are thirsting for that training which is given by other civilised nations of the world. Is there any civilised nation which does not give physical and military training to their boys? Why then should you withhold it from our boys? What is your justification? If you think that ours is a country, which must be kept in subjection by force and you cannot impart any training which will create force in us, you are then living in a fool's paradise. If you refuse our demand to-day, to-morrow you will reap its fruits. It is no mere idle threat—it is a sound piece of advice whether you will heed it or not. You are creating grievance after grievance. You are marching in mad career from one blunder to another, you are pursuing a relentless persecution, you are stopping at nothing in-

repressing national aspirations and activities, your tactics are mean, your actions unworthy of a civilised nation. You have weakened us mentally as well as physically. Where there were a network of schools throughout the province before the advent of the British rule numbering about 80,000 there are now hardly half of that number. Where before the British rule people lived longer years, nowadays under the benevolent despotist of England the average life here is much below that. If these grievances are ventilated publicly it becomes sedition and your prosecutor—what shall I say of him—a Public Prosecutor or a hired lathial calls it a fashion—a profitable business—Ah, forsooth! It is a fashion, too, but certainly not to him who suffers all the refined punishments and indignities of a common felon in the jail but to him who is getting fat fees at the cost of his countrymen and has acquired the fashion of scoffing—the fashion of scoffing at the best men. Why not make sedition impossible? It is a preventible thing. Remedy our grievances, concede our demands, trust us—allow us to grow to the fullest height of our stature and sedition will no more be in this land. Do not try to raise the bogey of cost before us in this connection. Many a nation-building scheme is knocked on the head on that score. We know you can spend and you will spend when you are determined, when you are egged on by our pampered and spoilt child—the police and are seized with a zid or else, how can we account for the lavish expenditures over the mock trials you are now having to crush the national spirits. But if you fail in spite of our warnings in time, Nemesis is bound to overtake you and will write the fateful words—“ Too late.” I, therefore, with all the emphasis at my command, urge upon the Government the acceptance of this resolution.

**Dr. MOHINI MOHAN DAS** spoke in Bengali in support of the resolution of Babu Bejoy Krishna Bose.

5-30 p.m.

**Mr. E. C. ORMOND:** Mr. President, Sir, I am not authorized to speak authoritatively on behalf of the European group to which I belong. I am speaking for myself, and this I must make clear. But there is one thing I can say confidently: I am sure that all the members of my own group will agree with me in my saying that there can be no question of the sincerity of the European group in this matter. We, Sir, are sincerely anxious for the improvement of both the social and physical conditions of the present and future generations in Bengal. I mean, Sir, that their physical improvement is but one aspect of their social improvement in a larger sense,—indeed, of any social improvement at all.

With regard to physical training and the improvement of the physical standard of the people of this province, there can be no

question, Sir, that all of us are in favour of any motion which will tend to that end, and were this resolution, now under discussion, only concerned with that, there would be no question whatever as to the attitude of myself and of my friends on this side of the House. But, Sir, the motion is peculiarly worded, if I may draw the attention of the House to it. It reads—

"This Council recommends to the Government the urgent necessity of promulgating rules and regulations for making compulsory in all schools for boys to take lessons in physical training and military drill, and in all colleges for students to receive military training."

Now, Sir, to that I for myself would have no objection, and I would give the strongest support to it, but when it comes to this that it is made compulsory in all schools for boys to take lessons in military drill, it introduces a feature which raises a different question altogether. I would venture to say that if a motion of this nature were brought in in England at the present day, it would find very little favour among my own English friends across the sea. (A voice: British). I am reminded that instead of the word "English" I ought to have used the word "British." But putting aside for the moment such trifling corrections, so very kindly made, I do say that compulsory physical training is one thing and compulsory military drill is another. If it were a question of voluntary military drill, that, again, would be a different thing, and, for my part, Sir, I would be in favour of any such motion. I would be in favour of a motion which aimed at the making of rules and regulations, in order that in such schools and colleges, as might desire it, voluntary military drill might be carried on, and, which would aim at having a system in vogue which would allow of such voluntary drill being carried on by those who wanted it.

Sir, if the mover of this motion were willing to alter the wording of this motion very slightly, I should expect that he would get considerable support from this side of the House. The point I wish to make out and emphasize is that this suggestion of mine should not be taken as in any way indicating any want of sincerity on the part of honourable members on this side of the House. If the motion could be so slightly altered as to read to the effect that this Council recommends to the Government the urgent necessity of promulgating rules and regulations providing for compulsory physical training and voluntary military drill in all schools for boys and voluntary military training for such students, as are willing to receive such training, in all colleges and so on, then I should be wholeheartedly in favour of this motion.

Sir, there is another point that occurs to me. If I were a Bengali student who went across the sea to England to continue my education at Oxford or Cambridge, I should feel very hurt—indeed, I should feel that I had a grievance—if, on my arrival at those ancient seats of

learning, I was told that I must take up compulsory military training and spend the best part of my time (which I had hoped to spend in extending my education in a particular direction), in an opposite direction in which I had no mind to extend it.

Sir, there is one other matter which I should like to mention. Even in England, at the present day, they have in almost all the schools and colleges a system of voluntary military drill in the form of cadet corps and such institutions. Even there, Sir, there is a certain body of opinion which would suggest that at the present state of the world, when there is all this talk of disarmament among the nations, it is hardly proper to talk of disarming nations and at the same time of compulsorily drilling individuals. That is an aspect which must be considered by certain members of this House from an international point of view.

Sir, all I desire to say is that, for my part, I am wholeheartedly in favour of this motion in so far as it concerns physical training, and, what is more, I would have wholeheartedly supported the entire motion were it not for that word "compulsory," used in connexion with military drill and military training, which takes away from the individual the rights, which I suggest, he ought to be left to enjoy, so that he may choose what kind of life he himself intends to live: provided he is fit.

**Babu SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** Sir, I would not have taken part in the debate had it not been for the last speech of Mr. Ormond. He has intervened in the debate with a practical suggestion, which, I think, is worthy of consideration at the hands of my esteemed friend, the mover of this resolution. Mr. Ormond has made it clear, and he has guarded his position by saying that he was not voicing the opinion of such of his colleagues as are on the other side of the House, that it is his personal opinion, and that very likely the members on his side would be agreeable to support him in that suggestion. I would, however, ask the mover of this resolution to seriously consider whether he should not so modify his motion as to bring it into line with the suggestion thrown out by my esteemed friend, Mr. Ormond.

Sir, so far as military training is concerned, I am sorry I cannot follow my friend, Mr. Ormond, in the last argument which he has brought forward, namely, the argument about pacifism. Mr. Ormond says that these are days of pacifism and that England and other nations are retracing their steps so far as the question of armament is concerned, and are trying to limit their armaments and their military power. That is all very well for those nations which are armed to the teeth, but so far as India is concerned, so far as Bengal is concerned, if we talk of pacifism it would be a shield and cover behind which cowards only would come forward to take shelter. First,

let us have armament and then it will be time to talk of disarmament. England can very well talk of disarmament from her high pedestal of pacifism; but, so far as India is concerned, I am sorry to say that pacifism and disarmament are things which are worth only to be uttered by cowards amongst us. I would ask Mr. Ormond whether he and his esteemed colleagues on the other side of the House would like to put forward that plea, so far as members of their community, who are sojourning in this country, are concerned. Will they think of sending forth a fiat—let not members of the British community take to volunteering; let them not join the Auxiliary Force in such large numbers as they are hitherto doing? Will they carry on a lively and brisk campaign, so that no more members of their own community might join the volunteer force, or the unofficial army which is at the beck and call of the powers that be, when the time comes to utilise their services? Is it not a thing of great glory amongst them to become a keen volunteer? Then why deny us the privilege—the right,—of doing, the very things which they esteem so much in the case of their own community? I know my friend, Mr. Ormond, will turn round and say that volunteering is not compulsory training; but when England has got to the stage of perfection in the matter of military training, we want only to begin in that direction. In this matter as in many others, India has to begin where England ends. Give us the right, the opportunity—

**Mr. E. C. ORMOND:** On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I did say that I, for myself, would be in favour of voluntary military drill.

**Babu SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** I will not take the time of the House any longer. All that I wish to say is that the time has definitely come for the Government to declare in no uncertain terms that in the interests of the larger destiny of the nation, in the interests of rearing up a strong and virile race in this country, it should come forward and readily accept the resolution which has been tabled by Mr. Bejoy Krishna Bose.

It was only the other day that it was trotted out by Lord Birkenhead from his place in the House of Lords, as Secretary of State for India, that India was militarily unfit to shoulder the burden of responsible Government. Sir, you will pardon me if I say that it was a mean and unworthy suggestion to come from a British Secretary of State, from a representative of that British Government, which has dominated over us and kept us under its heels for over a century, has disarmed an entire people, and has steadily refused to give them military training of any kind whatsoever. And for a representative of that Government to come forward and brand us as unfit from a military point of view for full responsible Government, when that Government

has deprived us of every opportunity for military training, was, I repeat, mean, cowardly and dishonourable. Now that a member of a popular party has come forward with a resolution of this character and is asking Government, as was done by Dr. Moonje in the Indian Legislature, to introduce for our young men some sort of military training, does it lie in the Government members to deny us this right, and does it lie in their mouth to say that they are going to refuse it, so that they can continue to put forward this plea that we are militarily unfit, and therefore unfit for responsible Government?

5.30 p.m.

If this resolution is accepted by Government, and if it is given effect to, I hope the old old argument that the Bengalis are not militarily fit will not be trotted out again. But if they are at all sincere in their profession, if they mean what they say, if they want to establish a popular Government in the country—a Government that is self-contained and self-reliant in every department of its activity—I think, Sir, a day should not be lost before they accept this resolution and before they give effect to it in a right and sincere spirit. Again I say, if the mover of the resolution thought fit to accept the suggestion of Mr. Ormond—and I think it is time that we make a beginning—I hope Mr. McAlpin will readily come forward not only to accept the amendment of Mr. Ormond, but to give immediate effect to it. The House in that case may unanimously pass the amendment, so that the hands of Government may be strengthened in order to give effect to it at once in every school and college in Bengal.

**Babu MANMATHA NATH ROY:** Sir, I had no mind to take part in this discussion, but after hearing my friend Mr. Ormond on the other side of the House, I cannot give my silent vote in the matter. I strongly repudiate the attitude taken up by my friend Mr. Ormond. It is not a question of disarmament, it is not a question of merely developing the physique of the Indian students. It is a question of the Indians being able to take a due share and responsibility in the defence of their own country. Sir, the members of this House may remember the great service which was done to this country by the Skeen Committee by focussing public attention on the physical disabilities of the Indian students. Sir, how is it that the Indians have now lost the capacity of defending their own country which they could successfully do 150 years ago? The Skeen Committee said that the Government of the country by depriving the Indians of any share in the work of defence of their own country and by giving them no opportunity in this respect, has brought about the present physical deterioration amongst the Indians. They said that the Indians have lost their physical qualities by non-use. Sir, it was Lord Macaulay who pointed out that the educational policy of this country was to

train up a class of men to be a recruiting field for meek, docile and obedient subordinates to the mighty administrators of the country. How different, Sir, is the education policy in England. It was pointed out by the Skeen Committee—and these are the words of that Committee—that the educational policy of England is adapted to the production of efficient leaders of men. Sir, we have had many professions from our Government. If those professions are real and sincere, if they are *bona fide*, and if the Government really intend to give the people of this country their due share in the protection and defence of their country, the only alternative before them is to accept this simple resolution. It is only a question of principle; financial difficulties are no doubt there, but accept the principle first. The financial difficulties will be solved in course of time. My friends on the other side of the House should realise that the British people in this country are like a drop in the ocean, and they cannot successfully defend this country unaided by us. They must give up their prejudices, their predilections, and look at it from a purely dispassionate point of view, not merely for the purpose of protecting or defending the Indians, but for defending themselves as well. Let them say whether without any actual preparation, the country, the military traditions of which have been broken during the last 150 years, will be in a position to help the Government in an emergency. Sir, I believe it is known to Mr. Ormond that in almost all the British colonies from Canada downwards military training is enforced in the case of students; and I do not know why there should be any objection to that being done in this country. I sincerely believe that the original resolution as moved by Mr. Bejoy Krishna Bose, and not in the modified form suggested by Mr. Ormond, will be accepted by this House.

**Mr. E. C. ORMOND:** Sir, I understand I would have been more in order if I had myself moved an amendment, as I understand it is not open to the mover to revise his resolution.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** It is still open to you to do so.

**Mr. E. C. ORMOND:** I do not know, Sir, whether I will be in order if I move an amendment to the resolution to the following effect: That the resolution of Mr. Bejoy Krishna Bose do take the following form, namely:—

"This Council recommends to the Government the urgent necessity for compulsory physical training and voluntary military drill in all schools and colleges."

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** Under proviso to section 37, I have allowed Mr. Ormond to move his amendment.

**The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. MacALPIN:** Sir, the difficulty is in drafting an amendment which will not commit Government to any large expenditure. That's the whole trouble about it. At the present moment there are rules and regulations for compulsory physical training of boys, and what is more, we have a special officer, Mr. Buchanan, who has just brought out a report on the whole subject, and after consideration of this report and his recommendations, we hope to adopt measures of physical training for school boys which will be very much better than in the past. Also we have promised to help the Calcutta University, when they are able to make some rules making it compulsory for boys joining the University to have physical training in the previous two years. So far as physical education is concerned, we are doing everything we possibly can. The main trouble is about the military training, and the two troubles there are, firstly, mention of the word "compulsory," which difficulty was sought to be removed by Mr. Ormond who wanted to make it voluntary; and the second is one of finance.

I thank Mr. Ormond for his intervention in the debate.

6 p.m.

My trouble is that I do not know what the financial commitment of Government will be if they accept this amendment; otherwise I should be happy to accept an amendment regarding voluntary military training. If anyone can evolve an amendment on these lines which will not commit Government to any new expenditure it will be accepted.

**Babu BEJOY KRISHNA BOSE:** Sir, at the fag end of the debate Mr. Ormond has come forward with a suggestion and as a matter of fact has moved an amendment to my resolution. Even if I were disposed to accept the amendment I find that Government is not prepared to lend their support to it on the ground of financial stringency. My friend Mr. MacAlpin is the Member for Finance here in this House and he could not give any assurance that if the amendment were accepted he would help with the necessary money. So, under the circumstances I find myself in a difficulty.

With regard to the question of military training, I find that I am in very good company because the resolution which I have tabled and moved is not a resolution about which I alone feel strongly, but it is a resolution which finds favour with all the intelligent section of the Bengali community. My friend Mr. Syamaprosad Mookerjee has referred to a certain report of the Calcutta University. I have got that report with me here and at paragraph 7 of that report it is stated that "pending the decision by the competent authorities of the question of compulsory military training for all University students"

(mark the words "compulsory military training," Sir) "the University are prepared to accept the suggestion made by Mr. Lindsay, namely, the formation of an additional battalion, company and platoon" which I referred to yesterday. This report is signed by Sir Jadunath Sarkar, Sir Nilratan Sarkar, Prof. Heramba Chandra Moitra, Dr. Sir Deva Prasad Sarbadhikari, Dr. Kedar Nath Das, Rai Dr. U. N. Brahmachari Bahadur, Rai Bahadur Jnan Chandra Ghoeh, Prof. J. R. Banerjee, Mr. Biraj Mohon Mazumdar, the present Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Urquhart, Srijut Roma Prosad Mookerjee, Dr. Pramathanath Nandi, and Mr. H. K. Mookerjee. I find in the list of names that the present Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University and another past Vice-Chancellor, Sir Nilratan Sarkar, were in favour of compulsory military training. My resolution simply says that if the principle is accepted a scheme may be drawn up. Two military gentlemen, two officers of Government, three or four members of this Council and representatives of Dacca and Calcutta Universities might sit together in that committee and consider how far it is possible to give effect to this resolution; the financial difficulties and objections of the military authorities and all other things will be considered by that small committee which Government might appoint. I am not asking Government to commit itself to-day and now to any amount of money for the purpose of carrying out this resolution. Sir, I made it clear in my speech yesterday that I advocated the acceptance of my resolution only, leaving it to Government to evolve a suitable scheme. If you do not accept the principle, if you say that you will not give us military training, that is another matter. There you and I differ. If you, however, say that you are inclined to sympathetically consider this resolution, it may be carried and after that Government might by notification or by resolution appoint a committee for the purpose of considering how far this scheme can be given effect to. If practical difficulties are found and if superhuman obstacles are thrown in the way of this scheme by the military authorities then the scheme might be scrapped altogether. But, Sir, where is the difficulty of accepting the principle of this resolution and leaving it to Government to consider whether a committee might not be appointed to draft a scheme and consider the advisability of giving effect to it? It is not a proposition that I, Bejoy Krishna Bose and my friend, Mr. Syamaprosad Mookerjee, request you to accept, but it is a matter in which the best brains of Bengal, namely, Sir Jadunath Sarkar, Prof. Heramba Chandra Moitra, Sir Nilratan Sarkar as well as the present Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University, are keenly interested and they are all in favour of some sort of compulsory military training.

If Government had seen their way to accept the amendment of Mr. Ormond I might have possibly accepted it. But now that Government are not willing to do so, I hope my European friends will vote with us in the same lobby and help us from dying by thousands.

The amendment of Mr. E. C. Ormond was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

## AYES.

Bairuddin, Maulvi Mohammed.  
 Dain, Mr. G. R.  
 Ferrester, Mr. J. Campbell.  
 Geonka, Rai Bahadur Badridas.  
 Kasem, Maulvi Abul.  
 Laird, Mr. R. B.  
 Lamb, Mr. T.  
 Leslie, Mr. M.  
 Maguire, Mr. L. T.  
 McCluskie, Mr. E. T.  
 Nag, Reverend B. A.

Nazimuddin, Mr. Khwaaja.  
 Ormond, Mr. E. C.  
 Rose, Mr. G. F.  
 Roy, Mr. Bijoy Prasad Singh.  
 Roy, Mr. Sarat Kumar.  
 Rushforth, Mr. F. V.  
 Sarkar, Sir Jadunath.  
 Skinner, Mr. S. A.  
 Thompson, Mr. W. H.  
 Travore, Mr. W. L.

## NOES.

Ahmed, Maulvi Shamsuddin.  
 Ali, Maulvi Hassan.  
 Ali, Maulvi Syed Nausher.  
 Bagchi, Babu Romeo Chandra.  
 Baksh, Maulvi Syed Majid.  
 Banerjee, Babu Prometha Nath.  
 Banerji, Mr. P.  
 Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan.  
 Basu, Babu Santosh Kumar.  
 Bose, Babu Bejoy Krishna.  
 Chakraburty, Babu Jatinra Nath.  
 Chatterjee, Srijut Bijay Kumar.  
 Chatterjee, Babu Amarendranath.  
 Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Alimuzzaman.  
 Chaudhuri, Maulvi Ashrafuddin.  
 Choudhury, Maulvi Nural Abeer.  
 Chowdhury, Haji Badi Ahmed.  
 Chowdhury, Maulvi Abdul Ghani.  
 Das, Dr. Mehnini Mohan.  
 Das Gupta, Dr. J. M.  
 Dutt, Babu Saral Kumar.  
 Fazlullah, Maulvi Muhanmad.  
 Ganguli, Babu Pratul Chandra.  
 Ghose, Babu Amarendra Nath.  
 Guha, Mr. P. N.  
 Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra.  
 Hakim, Maulvi Abdul.  
 Hashemy, Maulvi Syed Jalaluddin.  
 Hoque, Kazi Emdadul.  
 Hossein, Maulvi Muhammad.  
 Huq, Khan Sahib Maulvi Bazul.  
 Hus, Mr. A. K. Fazlul.  
 Karim, Maulvi Abdul.

Khan, Babu Debendra Lal.  
 Khan, Maulvi Tamizuddin.  
 Law, Mr. Surendra Nath.  
 Mazumdar, Mr. Birendranath.  
 Mitra, Babu Surendra Mohan.  
 Mitra, Srijut Jagendra Nath.  
 Meekerjee, Mr. Syamaprasad.  
 Mukherjee, Srijut Taraknath.  
 Nag, Babu Suk Lal.  
 Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.  
 Pain, Babu Baroda Prajanna.  
 Pal Choudhuri, Mr. Ranjit.  
 Raheem, Mr. A.  
 Rahman, Mr. A. F. M. Abdur-Ray, Dr. Kumud Sankar.  
 Ray, Srijut Radha Govinda.  
 Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Sanat Kumar.  
 Roy, Babu Manmatha Nath.  
 Roy, Dr. Bidhan Chandra.  
 Roy, Mr. D. N.  
 Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar.  
 Roy, Mr. Sadhan Chandra.  
 Fey Choudhuri, Babu Hem Chandra.  
 Roy Choudhuri, Rai Bahadur Satyendra Nath.  
 Saadatullah, Maulvi Muhammad.  
 Samad, Maulvi Abdus.  
 Sarkar, Babu Malliniranjan.  
 Son Gupta, Mr. J. M.  
 Singh, Srijut Taj Bahadur.  
 Selaiman, Maulvi Muhammad.  
 Subrawardy, Mr. H. S.  
 Tarkathirtha, Kaviraj Simalananda, Pundit Bhushan.

The Ayes being 21 and the Noes 65, the following motion by way of amendment to the resolution of Babu Bejoy Krishna Bose was lost:—

"This Council recommends to the Government the urgent necessity for compulsory physical training and voluntary military drill in all schools and colleges."

6-15 p.m.

The motion of Babu Bejoy Krishna Bose was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

## AYES.

Ahmed, Maulvi Shamsuddin.  
 Ali, Maulvi Hassan.  
 Bagchi, Babu Romeo Chandra.  
 Baksh, Maulvi Syed Majid.  
 Banerjee, Babu Prematha Nath.  
 Banerji, Mr. P.  
 Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan.  
 Basu, Babu Santosh Kumar  
 Bose, Babu Bejoy Krishna.  
 Bose, Mr. Subhas Chandra.  
 Chakrabarty, Babu Jatindra Nath.  
 Chatterjee, Srijut Bijay Kumar.  
 Chatterji, Babu Amarendranath.  
 Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Alimuzzaman.  
 Chaudhuri, Maulvi Ahsrafuddin.  
 Choudhury, Maulvi Nural Abeer.  
 Chowdhury, Haji Badi Ahmed.  
 Chowdhury, Maulvi Abdul Ghani.  
 Das, Dr. Mehini Mehan.  
 Das Gupta, Dr. J. M.  
 Dutt, Babu Sarai Kumar.  
 Fazlullah, Maulvi Muhammad.  
 Ganguli, Babu Pratul Chandra.  
 Ghose, Babu Amarendra Nath.  
 Goenka, Rai Bahadur Badridas.  
 Guha, Mr. P. N.  
 Gupta, Mr. Jegesh Chandra.  
 Hakim, Maulvi Abdul.  
 Hashemy, Maulvi Syed Jalaluddin.  
 Hoque, Kazi Emdadul.  
 Hussain, Maulvi Muhammad.  
 Hug, Khan Sahib Maulvi Bazul.  
 Hug, Mr. A. K. Fazl-ul.  
 Karim, Maulvi Abdul.  
 Khan, Babu Debendra Lal.

Khan, Maulvi Tamizuddin.  
 Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.  
 Law, Mr. Surendra Nath.  
 Mazumdar, Mr. Birendranath.  
 McCluskie, Mr. E. T.  
 Mitra, Babu Surendra Mehan.  
 Mitra, Srijut Jogendra Nath.  
 Mukherjee, Mr. Syamaprasad.  
 Mukerjea, Srijut Taraknath.  
 Nag, Babu Suk Lal.  
 Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.  
 Phin, Babu Bareda Prajanna.  
 Pal Choudhuri, Mr. Ranjit.  
 Raheem, Mr. A.  
 Rahman, Mr. A. F. M. Abdur.  
 Ray, Dr. Kumud Sankar.  
 Ray, Srijut Radha Govinda.  
 Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Benat Kumar.  
 Roy, Babu Manmatha Nath.  
 Roy, Dr. Bidhan Chandra.  
 Roy, Mr. Bijoy Prasad Singh.  
 Roy, Mr. D. N.  
 Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar.  
 Roy, Mr. Sadhan Chanda.  
 Roy Choudhuri, Babu Hem Chandra.  
 Roy Choudhuri, Rai Bahadur Satyendra Nath.  
 Saadatullah, Maulvi Muhammad.  
 Samad, Maulvi Abdus.  
 Barker, Babu Nalinirajan.  
 Sen Gupta, Mr. J. M.  
 Singh, Srijut Taj Bahadur.  
 Solaiman, Maulvi Muhammad.  
 Tarkathirtha, Kaviraj Binabalananda, Pundit Bhushan.

## NOES.

Basiruddin, Maulvi Mohammed.  
 Blair, Mr. J. R.  
 Casella, Mr. A.  
 Choudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Haizur Rahman.  
 Dain, Mr. G. R.  
 Dash, Mr. A. J.  
 Eason, Mr. G. A.  
 Ghosh, Mr. M. C.  
 Ghuznavi, the Hon'ble Alhadji Sir Abd-el-hamed.  
 Ghulamali, Mr. R. M.  
 Gurhier, Mr. C. W.  
 Hogg, Mr. G. P.

Hopkyns, Mr. W. S.  
 Hussain, Maulvi Latifat.  
 Jenkins, Dr. W. A.  
 Laird, Mr. R. B.  
 Lamb, Mr. T.  
 Leslie, Mr. M.  
 Maguire, Mr. L. T.  
 McAlpin, the Hon'ble Mr. M. G.  
 Miller, the Hon'ble Sir Prevash Chunder.  
 Moherly, the Hon'ble Mr. A. N.  
 Nazimuddin, Mr. Khwaja.  
 Ormond, Mr. E. C.  
 Rose, Mr. G. F.  
 Puchforth, Mr. F. V.

Sarker, Sir Jadunath.  
 Skinner, Mr. S. A.  
 Stapleton, Mr. H. E.  
 Tate, Major General Godfrey.

Thompson, Mr. W. H.  
 Travers, Mr. W. L.  
 Twynam, Mr. H. J.

The Ayes being 68 and the Noes 33, the following motion was carried :—

"This Council recommends to the Government the urgent necessity of promulgating rules and regulations for making compulsory in all schools for boys to take lessons in physical training and military drill, and in all colleges for students to receive military training."

The following motion was, in the absence of the movers, deemed to be withdrawn :—

**"Maulvi SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY and Mr. JOCEH CHANDRA GUPTA:** This Council recommends to the Government that the present grant for maintaining the Sanskrit pandits and students at Nawadwip be diverted towards starting a regular residential Sanskrit *tol* under a managing committee."

#### Appointed Chairman of the District Board of Bankura.

**Srijut BIJAY KUMAR CHATTERJEE:** Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move the resolution that stands in my name, viz., "This Council recommends to the Government that it should immediately remove the appointed Chairman of the District Board of Bankura and restore to the people the right of electing their own Chairman."

Sir, it is an elementary right of the people that I am claiming, it is the ordinary privilege granted by Statute to the people of a district to elect their own Chairman of the District Board. And I further claim that unless the Government can make out a definite case, supported by facts and figures, unless it can bring out positive proof in support of its case, unless it can satisfy the people of Bengal, it must immediately restore to the people of Bankura the right of electing their own Chairman of the District Board. Before I proceed further, I want to give a true history of the controversy between the District Board of Bankura and the bureaucracy. Ever since the right of electing their Chairman had been granted to the people of Bankura, the work of the District Board was being carried on with efficiency and ability, of which any district can be proud of. The first elected Chairman of the District Board, Rai Bamacharan Ray Bahadur, carried on the administration of the District Board with ability and efficiency that brought forth the admiration of all the people concerned. Advanced age and serious illness prevented Rai Bamacharan Ray Bahadur from standing as a candidate for the same, and his noble footsteps were

followed by Srijut Manindra Bhushan Sinha, who was unanimously elected Chairman by all the elected members of the Board, after the retirement of the Rai Bahadur. The self-sacrifice, the fearlessness, the power of administration, the honesty of purpose of Srijut Manindra Bhushan Sinha brought forth admiration from all quarters. The universal opinion was that whether in the matter of sanitation, public health, water-supply, education, physical culture, the district of Bankura was going ahead, and I should specially mention the introduction of the treatment of leprosy and the opening of numerous leprosy centres for free treatment of poor lepers and the establishment of a school for imparting training in physical culture, which were among the many benevolent and useful things done by the newly constituted Board. The unstinted admiration, the immense popularity, the sincere gratitude of the people of Bankura towards the District Board, controlled and managed by the Congress party, was too much for the local Government officers led by that notorious public servant—Babu Anadi Ranjan Bose of Charmanair fame—who was all along trying to get up a conspiracy against the members of the District Board. And it was not difficult for the local officers to find out a point for picking up a quarrel with the District Board and the establishment of Union Boards within the district of Bankura was made a point at issue. The people of Bankura have never been enamoured of the usefulness and utility of the Union Boards and they tried to express their disapprobation before the local Government officials tried to establish Union Boards within the district. The then Chairman of the District Board, Rai Bamacharan Ray Bahadur, who enjoyed the confidence of both the people of the district and Government, gave his considered opinion as Chairman of the District Board that the establishment of the Union Boards in the district of Bankura would never be popular; and my information is that successive District Magistrates and Collectors of Bankura gave their definite opinion that it would not be possible to establish Union Boards in the district of Bankura. But the Government was obdurate. It sent Mr. Hart as Collector, with a definite purpose of establishing Union Boards in the district. This gentleman is now dead and ordinary courtesy and politeness require that I should not say anything against him now, as regards his ability and intelligence. But I can say this without transgressing the sense of decency and decorum that this old man tried his best to induce the people of Bankura to accept Union Boards, and he addressed numerous open public meetings for this purpose. But, unfortunately, at the said public meetings he met with open opposition from the people who would not accept Union Boards. His worthy lieutenant, the now notorious Anadi Ranjan Bose, of Charmaniar fame, whose zeal to please his masters induced him to transgress the limits of honesty, truth, justice and fairness, by dishonest methods tried to force Union Boards upon the unwilling people of Bankura. And I am quoting the

authority of no less a person than Mr. Justice Digamber Chatterjee, who was for many years one of His Majesty's Judges of the Honourable High Court, and is now residing in the village Maliara within the district of Bankura, who personally told me how public documents were tampered with, false reports were written by the Subdivisional Officer and Circle Officer, in their inordinate zeal to establish Union Boards. And I have got with me ample evidence to prove before any court of law the dishonesty of the local officers.

In this state of affairs the election of Local Boards took place. The election took place on the issue of Union Boards and the electors gave a mandate to the newly elected members of the Local Boards to oppose the establishment of Union Boards in the district.

In the District Conference held at Vishnupur, in which representatives of the district were present, it was unanimously decided to oppose the establishment of Union Boards in the district. Protest meetings were held throughout the district. So the elected members of the District Board had no other alternative than to oppose the establishment of Union Boards. The District Board and Local Boards, which were consulted by the District Magistrate, opposed the establishment of Union Boards very strongly. But unfortunately these protests and opinions were pushed aside with contempt and the bureaucratic *zid* in enforcing the Village Self-Government Act prevailed. The resourceful local officials gave up all open activities and proceeded to work in the dark with the aid of coercion, harassment, intimidation and deception. False petitions demanding Union Boards were manufactured, as few men of their choice were seized, and mock elections were held. Thus the Union Boards were wrongfully thrust into existence. The District Board demanded an open inquiry. They approached the Hon'ble Mr. Ghuznavi (now Sir), the then Minister in charge of Local Self-Government Department, through a deputation headed by the Chairman for redress. Everything proved unavailing, till at last they felt compelled to allot a nominal sum of Re. 1 only in the annual budget estimates for 1928-29 under the head "Grant to Union Boards" to mark their protest against Executive wrong-doing. Then the Government took the more revengeful step against the Board by withholding payment of the Augmentation grant for 1928-29 on the alleged offence of the latter's refusing to discharge statutory obligations towards Union Boards. The injustice of this course is open to everybody. But even assuming, but not admitting, for argument's sake that the then members of the District Board failed in their duty laid by the Statute, the Government was certainly not justified in depriving the people of the benefit of the grant from Provincial Revenues for an act of remissness on the part of the District Board. The Government did not care to send a reply to the District Board letter on this matter. At this stage the term of the previous Board came to an end and the present

Board was reconstituted, which, however, has sanctioned a suitable grant for Union Boards for the current year 1929-30. Now the pertinent question arises why should the crime—if it was at all a crime—of the defunct Board visit the present one and why should Srijut Manindra Bhusan Sinha be sacrificed for an act of the preceding Board? Obviously the motive of Government is to destroy the Congress influence in the Board.

It was in December, 1928, that Srijut Manindra Bhusan Sinha was unanimously elected Chairman of the District Board by all the elected members.

Four or five months passed away and nothing was heard from the Government as regards the confirmation of the election till the beginning of June, 1929, when the Divisional Commissioner made an unofficial inquiry from the said Mr. Sinha whether he would resign Chairmanship in view of Government's decision disapproving of his election. He wrote a spirited reply saying that he was incapable of doing so as it would be tantamount to relinquishing a trust held by him from his brother members on the Board. Thereafter the executive fiat was issued rejecting the Board's choice withdrawing its right to elect its own Chairman and appointing Babu Nagendra Nath Ghose, a nominated member of the District board, as its Chairman. One or two words can be said of this Nagen Babu. He does not belong to the district of Bankura. He is a foreigner. He came from Jessore to practise in Bankura. By his flattery and unscrupulousness he has become a favourite of the Government.—

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** Order, order. I think you should withdraw the word "unscrupulousness."

**Srijut BIJAY KUMAR CHATTERJEE:** Very well, Sir. And he aspires to be the Government Pleader and Public Prosecutor after the retirement of that venerable lawyer, Rai Basanta Kumar Neogy Bahadur. Nagendra Babu is a henchman of the Government, and during the last District Board election he failed to secure an election to the District Board. Nagendra Babu was suddenly nominated a member of the District Board and then, just before the Bengal Council election, was nominated Chairman of the District Board.

Now the position is that Babu Nagendra Nath Ghose, the nominated Chairman, has no following. He is supported by only 7 nominated members, while the 16 elected members of the District Board are against him. Finding his position insecure he has tendered his resignation—at least that is his statement before the members of the Board. But up till now no orders have been passed by the Government. So the work of the District Board has come to a standstill. There is no

way out of this impasse. I have put several questions to the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Local Self-Government Department and you, Sir, have allowed these questions. But up till now no answer has been given. Although there were several questions regarding the District Board, the Hon'ble Member in charge of this Department has attempted to give a vague answer to one question, but has withheld information on matters which he thinks, I presume, inconvenient. May I ask the Hon'ble Member—is it just, is it proper, is it honest to avoid these important questions in this way? And even if he has attempted not to answer my questions I ask these questions here from the floor of this House.

**MEMBER in charge of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter):** On a point of personal explanation, Sir. May I point out that we had to make certain references to the local officers, and that is the reason for the delay in giving answers to his questions.

**Srijut BIJAY KUMAR CHATTERJEE:** I ask—will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reason why Government did not confirm the election of Srijut Manindra Bhusan Sinha, who was elected Chairman of the Bankura District Board by an overwhelming majority? Is the Government aware that Srijut Manindra Bhusan Sinha discharged his duties as Chairman of the Bankura District Board for three years with conspicuous ability, and if so, what are the reasons for removing him? I pause for a reply. I ask—will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state why is it that Government did not ask the Bankura District Board to elect another Chairman? What were the reasons for depriving the people of Bankura of the right to elect a Chairman of their own choice? I pause for an answer. I further ask—will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state when Babu Nagendra Nath Ghose tendered his resignation as Chairman of the District Board and how long is it likely to take Government to pass orders in the matter of accepting the resignation? I ask—is the Government aware that considerable discontent prevails among the people of Bankura over the appointment of a nominated Chairman? And I ask—what immediate steps does the Government think of taking to allay the prevailing feeling of discontent in Bankura? I pause for an answer. One word more and I have done.

It is to be regretted, when the whole of India is pulsating for self-determination, when the united India is demanding their birth-right, their power to control all departments of administration, to guide their own destiny, the Government of Bengal will not even concede to the people the right of electing their own Chairman. If Srijut Manindra Bhusan Sinha is objectionable, if he has done any wrong for which

our benevolent Government may not see its way to confirm his election, why is it that the Government should not ask the members to elect any other person as their Chairman? Why is it that the Government would attempt to nominate a Chairman of their own choice? And even when the said Chairman finds his position so bad, when he finds that he has no following and he tenders his resignation, the Government will not accept the said resignation. If it is the intention of the Government to supersede Bankura District Board, why does not it say so openly? I presume that Sir P. C. Mitter, K.T., C.I.E., Member in charge of Local Self-Government Department, was connected with the Indian National Congress for about 25 years. The other day he stated it openly in the court of the Presidency Magistrate, Calcutta, in the case of Emperor *versus* Ramananda Chatterjee. May I ask the valiant knight what personal consideration induced him to take away the rights of the people and to yield to the whims of the officials? Why does he not appoint a non-official committee to inquire whether the people of Bankura want Union Boards?

My resolution is a reasonable one. It is very moderate and just. I, therefore, hope that all the different parties of this House will unanimously support me. To-day Bankura is affected—to-morrow the sword may fall on Howrah—next day on Mymensingh. So it is high time that it should be stopped.

With these words, Sir, I move the resolution.

**Babu SANAT KUMAR RAY CHAUDHURI:** Sir, the story that we have just heard is infamous and borders on the scandalous. I do not know whether the resolution of the Government of India of 1918 is a dead-letter with our Government officials and heads of departments. In that resolution we have been told that the declared policy of Government would be to allow the District Boards and municipalities to elect their own Chairmen and that experiments would be made in more than one municipality first and then it would be made universal, and certain District Boards were singled out for the experiment. Thereafter experiments were carried out in other local bodies, and I understand from my friend Babu Bijay Kumar Chatterjee that an experiment was conducted with success in the Bankura District Board. That resolution goes on to say that this is a new experiment and therefore the people will undoubtedly make mistakes, but Government were of opinion that the people should learn by making mistakes. Now, why is this punishment to be inflicted on the District Board of Bankura to be deprived of their right to elect their own Chairman? Another resolution of the Bengal Government should be issued saying that in future we are going in more and more for appointing nominated Chairmen as we used to do in the halcyon days of old. If this be the declared policy of Government one can understand it.

6.45 p.m.

There is another thing which strikes me and that is that the prestige of any official is higher than the well-being of the public whose accredited representatives have been entrusted with the onerous and responsible duty of managing the affairs of the District Boards. This is hardly a compliment to a statutory body. Is the office of the Chairman of a District Board such an unimportant one that we can leave it vacant or in suspense for any length of time? These are the questions which must be answered by the Head of the Local Self-Government Department before he can take any action. And as I understand he is a nationalist at heart; if he is sincere in his desire he must see that self-government advances in great strides. I think there can be no two opinions about this and the resolution should at once be accepted.

#### **Adjournment.**

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** The Council has now got to be adjourned for 15 minutes for prayers. Having regard to the nature of the business before the House, I think it is useless to reassemble after prayers only for quarter of an hour; so the Council stands adjourned till 3 p.m., on Friday, the 9th August, 1929, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

**Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under  
the provisions of the Government of India Act.**

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Friday, the 9th August, 1929, at 3 p.m.

**Present:**

Mr. President (the Hon'ble Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHAUDHURI, of Santosh) in the Chair, the four Hon'ble Members of the Executive Council, and 117 nominated and elected members.

**Starred Questions**

(to which oral answers were given).

**All-India Medical Council Bill.**

**\*44. Dr. KUMUD SANKAR RAY:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Local Self-Government (Medical) Department be pleased to state—

(i) whether a recent conference was held at Simla regarding the introduction of an All-India Medical Council Bill; and

(ii) whether representatives of the Government of Bengal attended the conference?

(b) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether non-official opinions were invited from Bengal on the proposed Bill?

(c) Is the Hon'ble Member aware of the opposition to the All-India Medical Registration Bill by the independent medical profession in Bengal and by the All-India Medical Association?

(d) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what attitude was taken by the Government of Bengal at the conference?

**MEMBER in charge of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT  
(RESERVED MEDICAL) DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Maberly):** (a) (i) A conference was held to consider whether the creation of All-India Medical Council was acceptable in principle.

(ii) Yes.

(b) No. A draft Bill was received, but it was of a confidential character and no opinion was invited except from the Council of Medical Registration and State Medical Faculty.

(c) No. They have made no inquiries.

(d) Government are not prepared to disclose what took place at a conference held by the Government of India.

**Dr. KUMUD SANKAR RAY:** With reference to answer (b) will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what was the reason for not consulting the Calcutta University?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** I have already said that the Bill was of a confidential character and it was desired that discussions pertaining to it should be conducted confidentially.

**Dr. KUMUD SANKAR RAY:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether it was a fact that the Bill sought to introduce certain checks on the examinations conducted by the Calcutta University?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** I have nothing to add to my answer.

**Dr. KUMUD SANKAR RAY:** Did the Government of Bengal agree to meet the salary and establishment charges of an officer appointed by the Government of India for the control of medical examinations—Commissioner for Medical Examinations for the whole of India?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** I am not prepared to disclose matters which are under correspondence with the Government of India.

#### Location of the Kumarkhali Registration office in Nadia.

\*45. **Mr. RANJIT PAL CHOUDHURI:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Education (Registration) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Kumarkhali Registration office in Nadia is located in a small rented house?

(b) Is it a fact that the said office is situated in an objectionable quarter in the bazar?

(c) Is it a fact that there is no arrangement for shelter to the general registering public from rain or sun?

(d) Is it a fact that there is no latrine arrangement?

(e) If the answers to (c) and (d) are in the affirmative, what steps, if any, do the Government propose to take to redress the grievances of both males and females having business at the registration office?

(f) What is the monthly average number of registrations in the said office?

(g) Is it a fact that the public grievances were brought to the notice of the Inspector-General of Registration by petition signed by three to four hundred sufferers on the 15th January, 1929, by a registered letter?

(h) If the answer to (g) is in the affirmative, what steps, if any, have been taken by the Inspector-General in the matter?

(i) Has the Inspector-General informed the first signatory to the petition of his decision?

**MEMBER in charge of EDUCATION (REGISTRATION)  
DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Alhadj Sir Abdelkerim Chuznavi):**

(a) Yes. In a rented house.

(b) No.

(c) No.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) 358.

(g) No.

(h) and (i) Do not arise.

the latrine arrangements in the Registration office at Kumarkhali are quite adequate for males and females?

**Maulvi SHAMSUDDIN AHMED:** Does the Government think that  
**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** That is a matter of opinion.

**Mr. RANJIT PAL CHOUDHURI:** Do the Government think that latrine arrangements are not necessary in Registration offices?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** This again is a matter of opinion.

**Maulvi SHAMSUDDIN AHMED:** Does not the Government think it necessary as a part of its duty to provide latrine arrangements at Kumarkhali?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** I may tell the member that there is a municipal latrine within 2 minutes' walk of the Sub-Registry office; further, the public attending the office use the Sub-Registrar's private latrine.

**Posting of an Assistant Sessions Judge to Malda.**

**\*48. Babu ROMES CHANDRA BACCHI:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether the Government are aware that more than twenty sessions cases are pending for trial at Malda and that the accused persons are being detained in jail for a considerable period?

(b) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that the amount of judicial work, both civil and criminal, at present at Malda is very great?

(c) Are the Government considering the desirability of posting an Assistant Sessions Judge there, permanently, in the interest of public justice?

(d) Is it a fact that the Government and the High Court have sanctioned the posting of one Assistant Sessions Judge at Malda for one year?

(e) If so, why has no effect as yet been given to the said order?

(f) Is it a fact that five Subordinate Judges have recently been invested with the powers of Assistant Sessions Judge?

(g) Are the Government considering the desirability of immediately posting one of these officers at Malda?

**MEMBER in charge of the JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly):** (a) Fifteen cases were pending at the end of June, 1929, of which two have since been disposed of. Thirty-four persons were in jail. Government have no exact information as to the period, but it is probable that in some cases it is considerable.

(b) A statement is laid on the table.

(c) No.

(d) The appointment of an Additional Sub-Judge with the powers of an Assistant Sessions Judge for Malda was originally sanctioned by Government for one year from 14th May, 1928, exclusive of the civil court vacation. The term of the appointment of the Additional Sub-Judge was subsequently extended for a further period of one year from the 16th June, 1929, *minus* the civil court vacation.

(e) The order was given effect to, but subsequently it was found that the number of sessions cases at Rajshahi was greater than that at Malda, and therefore, at the suggestion of the District Judge, an exchange was effected between the Sub-Judge of Rajshahi and the Assistant Sessions Judge of Malda after the last Easter holidays.

(f) Six officers were so vested.

(g) No; but the question of posting an Assistant Sessions Judge to Malda after the civil court vacation will be considered.

*Statement referred to in the reply to clause (b) of starred question No. 46 showing the state of the files of the courts at Malda (civil and criminal) at the close of the 2nd quarter of 1929.*

Courts.	Civil.										Criminal.		
	Original suits.		Miscellaneous Judicial cases.		Execution cases.		Regular appeals.		Miscellaneous appeals.		Sessions cases and references pending.	Criminal appeals pending.	Criminal motions pending.
	Total pending.	Over one year.	Total pending.	Over one year.	Total pending.	Over one year.	Total pending.	Over one year.	Total pending.	Over one year.			
Additional Subordinate Judge at Malda* ..	282	143	29	..	68	2	148	65	16	..	15†	2	..
Munsif, 1st Court, Malda	1,750	29	56	..	494	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Munsif, 2nd Court, Malda	2,080	31	50	..	352	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Munsif of Nawabganj ..	1,509	22	37	..	501	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Total</b> ..	<b>5,027</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>1,415</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>..</b>

\* Government sanctioned the creation of the post of a temporary Subordinate Judge with the powers of an Assistant Sessions Judge for Malda for one year from 14th May, 1928, plus one year from 16th June, 1929, minus civil court vacation.

† Of these two cases have since been disposed of.

**Babu ROMES CHANDRA BACCHI:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state, with reference to answer (e), why the District Judge instead of himself remaining at Rajshahi, where the file of Sessions cases was heavier, went to Malda keeping the Assistant Sessions Judge at Rajshahi?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** There are certain cases which the Sessions Judge can try, but which the Assistant Sessions Judge has no power to try. An Assistant Sessions Judge at Malda cannot dispose of all the Sessions cases.

**Babu SURENDRA MOHAN MOITRA:** Is the Hon'ble Member aware that immediately after the exchange between the Subordinate Judge of Rajshahi and the Assistant Sessions Judge at Malda, the District Judge of Rajshahi went to Malda and has been remaining there since?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** No.

**Babu SURENDRA MOHAN MOITRA:** Is the Hon'ble Member aware that on account of the Sessions Judge at Rajshahi remaining at Malda, criminal appeals have not been heard for the last three months and the appellants sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment have not been given judgment up till now? Is it a fact that the criminal work at Malda is suffering heavily inasmuch as judgments are not delivered in time, and as a matter of fact in one case the judgment of an appeal heard 3 months ago has not been delivered up till now?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** Government have no information.

**Closing of courts for Jumma prayer.**

\*47. **Maulvi NUR RAHMAN KHAN EUSUFJI:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state—

- (i) whether as a matter of practice or rule the subordinate courts of criminal jurisdiction are closed from 12.30 to 2 p.m. on Fridays to enable the Moslem employees, lawyers and litigants to say their *Jumma* prayer; and
- (ii) whether this practice or rule obtains in the subordinate courts of civil jurisdiction?

(b) If the answer to (a) (ii) is in the negative, is the Hon'ble Member aware that the non-closing of the civil courts for *Jumma* prayer on Fridays causes a great deal of hardship and inconvenience to the Moslem employees, lawyers and litigants and interferes with their freedom to say *Jumma* prayer?

(c) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether there exist any circulars or notifications of Government applicable to subordinate courts of both criminal and civil jurisdiction and to all Government offices directing them to suspend works for a sufficient period of time on Fridays to enable the Moslem employees, lawyers and litigants to say their *Jumma* prayer?

(d) If the answer to (c) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to lay on the table a copy of each of the said circulars or notifications?

(e) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that in some of the courts in mafassal the said circulars or notifications are not strictly given effect to?

(f) Are the Government considering the desirability of issuing orders for the observance of the orders?

(g) If the answer to (c) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of issuing a circular to all courts, both civil and criminal jurisdiction, and to all Government offices, making it obligatory upon them to suspend all works till 2 p.m. or at least from 12-30 to 2 p.m. on Fridays to enable the Moslem employees, lawyers and litigants to say their *Jumma* prayer?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** (a) (i) The circular printed below may be seen. In some places little advantage is taken of the rule.

(ii) No.

(b) No.

(c) Different orders regarding facilities for *Jumma* prayer are in force regarding civil courts, criminal and revenue courts and offices.

(d) A copy of the following circulars is laid on the table:—

(i) Letter Nos. 8288-8312 J., dated the 21st December, 1923.

(ii) Letter Nos. 786-90 A.D., dated the 16th May, 1925.

(e) No.

(f) No.

(g) No.

*Circular referred to in the reply to clause (d) of starred question No. 47.*

Nos. 786-90 A.D., dated Darjeeling, the 16th May, 1925.

From—The Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal,  
To—All Commissioners of Divisions.

I am directed to refer to this department letter Nos. 2266-70 A., dated the 17th January, 1924, on the subject of facilities to Muhammadans of all classes, having dealings with the courts, for attending *Jumma* prayer on Fridays. It has since been represented to Government that the orders already passed in the matter do not for various reasons achieve the object aimed at, and it has been suggested that all works in the mufassal courts should be stopped between 12-30 and 2 p.m. on Fridays.

2. The Governor in Council after careful consideration has accepted the proposal, and direct that on Fridays the criminal and revenue courts in your division shall adjourn from 12-30 p.m. to 2 p.m. Work will not be suspended in the offices but Muhammadan employees of Government should, if they so desire, be permitted to

absent themselves during the time that the courts are closed and other Muhammadans having business at the offices should not be called upon to attend during that time. Subject to your control district officers may vary or extend the time during which the sittings of the courts are suspended, where this course is necessary owing to special local circumstances, such as the distance of the courts from the mosque, and Government desire that full effect should be given to their policy that all Muhammadans employed or having business in the courts and public offices should be given every possible facility for attendance at *Jumma* prayers.

3. These orders, which supersede all previous orders on the subject, should be communicated to all district and subdivisional officers in your division.

*Circular referred to in the reply to clause (d) of starred question No. 47.*

Nos. 8288-8312 J., dated Calcutta, the 21st December, 1923.

From—The Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Judicial Department,

To—All District Judges; the Chief Judge, Small Causes Court, Calcutta; the Chief Presidency Magistrate, Calcutta; the Superintendent and Legal Remembrancer, Bengal; and the Administrator-General and Official Trustee, Bengal.

I am directed to refer to the Appointment Department circular letter Nos. 3186-3211 A., dated the 21st April, 1921 (to the endorsement Nos. 1423-26 J., dated the 30th April, 1921), regarding the grant of leave on Fridays to Muhammadan employees of Government to say their *Jumma* prayers. It has been brought to the notice of Government by an interpellation in the Legislative Council that litigants and other persons of the Muhammadan faith feel difficulty in attending mosques to say their *Jumma* prayers, as the instructions issued in the matter do not include them. Although inquiries made by Government in this behalf have brought to light no specific instance of hardship it is clear from the general trend of the reports received that it is desirable to issue definite instructions to ensure the enjoyment of similar facilities by all persons of the Muhammadan faith who have business with the courts.

2. The Governor in Council accordingly directs that the instructions contained in the circular letter referred to above should be extended to Muhammadans of all classes having dealings with the courts (e.g., employees, litigants, witnesses, pleaders and mukhtars).

An absence from duty for one hour and a half on Fridays, normally between 12-30 and 2 p.m., should be permitted to them without the necessity for application for permission; and where special circumstances indicate the necessity, as where the congregational mosque is at a distance from the court, the time should be extended by the local officers, who should use their discretion in so adjusting the arrangements as to give full effect to the intention of Government that the Muhammadans employed in or having business in the courts may have complete freedom for the performance of *Jumma* prayers.

#### **Decrease in population of Jessore.**

**\*48. Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Local Self-Government Department aware that during the last twenty-five years or more the population of Jessore has decreased by about 150,000 on account of the extremely malarious condition of the district?

(b) Has there been any decrease in the population of Jessore between the years 1900 and 1929?

(c) If so, to what extent?

**MEMBER in charge of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter):** (a), (b), and (c) The census reports show a decrease in the population of Jessore district from 1,791,856 to 1,700,924 between the years 1901 and 1921. Returns of births and deaths from 1921 to 1928 show a further excess of deaths of 58,309 during that period. There appears to be no doubt that malaria is a factor contributing to these figures.

**Dr. KUMUD SANKAR RAY:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what steps are being taken to combat malaria in the district of Jessore?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I must ask for notice of that.

**Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER:** Was the attention of the Hon'ble Member drawn to these figures before the question had been put?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** Not exactly to these figures, but to the prevalence of malaria in the district.

**Dr. KUMUD SANKAR RAY:** Was there any inquiry made to remedy the evil?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** There were various inquiries, and the papers are so voluminous that I cannot give you any details without notice.

**Mr. D. N. ROY:** What are the other causes of the decrease in the population?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I want notice of this.

**Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to tell us whether it is not a fact that in order to combat malaria the Bhairab Drainage Scheme was taken up by Government?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** The Bhairab Drainage Scheme was discussed at that time, but I am not aware whether it was taken up.

**Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH:** Is the Hon'ble Member aware that the late Maharaja of Nadia gave a distinct undertaking in this House that this scheme would be taken up in a very short time?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I am not personally aware of that.

**Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH:** Will the Hon'ble Member inform me personally whether it is not a fact that I gave notice of a series of questions about the Bhairab Drainage Scheme?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** That is no question.

**Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY:** If the Hon'ble Member was aware of that fact before this question was tabled, why has he not given a more detailed reply?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** That is no supplementary question; it is more or less an argument.

**Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state when this Bhairab Drainage Scheme will be taken up?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I cannot say, it is not in my department.

**Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH:** I want a definite reply as to when Government is going to set apart a substantial sum in order to take up this important project?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** The Hon'ble Member has already said that he is not concerned with this scheme.

**Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH:** Whoever might be concerned, I want an answer.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** Order, order.

3-15 p.m.

**Holding of Court of Sessions at Malda.**

**\*49. Babu ROMES CHANDRA BACCHI:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state what is the usual period and interval during and after which the present District Judge of Rajshahi and Malda is to hold Court of Sessions at Malda?

(b) Does he get any allowance in addition to his salary when he stays at Malda for judicial duties?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state—

(i) the amount of such allowance;

(ii) the amount of such allowance drawn by the said District Judge; and

(iii) the periods for which such allowance has been drawn?

(d) Is it a fact that the High Court recently sanctioned a Subordinate Judge with the powers of an Assistant Sessions Judge for Malda for one year for doing civil judicial work and also for clearing heavy arrears of Sessions cases pending at Malda?

(e) Is it a fact that the said District Judge has been keeping the officer at Rajshahi while he is himself remaining at Malda for trying Sessions cases there?

(f) If the answer to (e) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what steps the Government proposes to take to prevent such actions of the District Judge of Rajshahi and Malda?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** (a) There is no fixed period or interval for holding sessions at Malda. According to the provisions of Rule 45, Chapter I, Volume I of the Court's General Rules

and Circular Orders, Criminal, the Sessions Judges are required to fix the number of sessions to be held during a year and to report the arrangement to the High Court for approval. The dates so fixed for the commencement of Sessions at Malda during the years 1928 and 1929 are as shown below :—

1928—January 3rd, February 1st, March 5th, June 4th, September 3rd and December 3rd.

1929—January 28th, February 4th, April 2nd, June 3rd and September 16th.

(b) Yes.

(c) (i) Rs. 7-8 per diem.

(ii) and (iii)—

12th December 1928 to 19th December 1928—8 days = Rs. 60.

21st January 1929 to 23rd January 1929—3 days = Rs. 22-8.

24th January 1929 to 8th February 1929—16 days = Rs. 120.

The above is for the year 1928-29; no information is available for 1929-30, as the accounts have not yet been audited.

(d) and (e) The appointment of an Additional Sub-Judge with the powers of an Assistant Sessions Judge for Malda was originally sanctioned by Government for one year from 14th May, 1928, exclusive of the civil court vacation. The term of the appointment of the Additional Sub-Judge was subsequently extended for a further period of one year from the 16th June, 1929, minus the civil court vacation.

It was found that the number of Sessions cases at Rajshahi was greater than that at Malda and therefore at the suggestion of the District Judge an exchange was effected between the Sub-Judge of Rajshahi and Assistant Sessions Judge of Malda after the last Easter holidays.

(f) In view of what has been stated above, this does not arise.

**Babu SURENDRA MOHAN MOITRA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to make an inquiry whether after this exchange the amount of criminal works at Rajshahi has increased or decreased?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** That is a request for action.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** No doubt that, in this Council, a member is not generally allowed to press for action by a question. But, if I am to give my considerate opinion in the matter, I must say that it may very well be one of the objects of a question.

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** If the member will ask a question next session on the subject, I will have it examined.

**Earnings of the Compositors of the Bengal Government Press.**

\*50. **Mr. K. C. RAY CHAUDHURI:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the Bengal Government Press the earnings of the compositors are gradually decreasing while those of the salaried hands are gradually increasing?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

(c) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, year by year, for the last six years, the earnings of—

- (i) any five compositors of section 2;
- (ii) any five compositors of section 3;
- (iii) any five section holders;
- (iv) any five readers;
- (v) any five copy-holders; and
- (vi) any five clerks.

noting the name of each employee?

**MEMBER in charge of FINANCE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McAlpin):** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A statement is laid on the library table.

**Unstarred Questions**

(answers to which were laid on the table).

**Prosecutions for sedition.**

59. **Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state—

- (i) how many prosecutions for sedition have been sanctioned during the last six months against newspapers and public speakers;
- (ii) how many prosecutions for sedition were sanctioned during the six months preceding the last six months; and
- (iii) how many cases are awaiting sanction of the Local Government?

(b) What policy and procedure does the Governor in Council follow in granting the sanction for such prosecutions?

(c) Has there been recently any change in the policy and procedure regarding prosecution for sedition?

**MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly):** (a) (i) 15.

(ii) 8.

(iii) 1.

(b) The policy and procedure of Government is to sanction prosecutions for seditious speeches and writings in such of the cases which are brought to their notice as appear to them to be most harmful, if they are satisfied that the evidence is sufficient.

(c) No.

**Mr. JOCESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Member enlighten this House with reference to answer (b) as to who are the persons who bring the cases to the notice of the Government in the first instance?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** The cases are brought to the notice of Government in various ways. Sometimes Government see reports in the Press, sometimes they get them from the Bengali Translator, and sometimes from the local officers.

**Mr. JOCESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Does any Member of the Governor in Council, in whose name the sanction is given, examine the offending passages?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** The sanction is given in the name of the Governor in Council.

**Mr. JOCESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** In according sanction to these cases, does any Member of the Governor in Council go through the passages for which sanction is sought for?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** The cases are considered by the Governor in Council and the Governor in Council sanctions the prosecution and takes full responsibility.

**Mr. JOCESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state in what way the Governor in Council consider, by going through the article complained of, or by relying upon the reports of the police officers?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** The Governor in Council takes such steps to satisfy himself as seem good to him.

**Mr. JOGESW CHANDRA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to enlighten the House as to what are the steps that the Governor in Council take to satisfy themselves that the offending speech or article falls within the law?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** I have nothing to add.

**Mr. JOGESW CHANDRA GUPTA:** Is the Hon'ble Member aware that the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal has deposed in connection with a certain sanction that he did not go through the offending speeches?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** I am not responsible for the statement made by Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

**Mr. SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE:** Is it not a fact that no Member of the Government ever cares to go through the speeches, before sanction is given?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** It is not a fact.

**Mr. SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE:** With reference to answer (a) (iii), will the Hon'ble Member kindly state against whom the prosecution is being contemplated?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** I must ask for notice.

**Mr. JOGESW CHANDRA GUPTA:** Is the Hon'ble Member aware that sanction has been granted by Government with regard to works of fiction?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** The form of the seditious does not affect the question of the liability of the author.

**Mr. D. N. ROY:** Who judges whether a particular matter is seditious or not?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** A similar question has already been answered

**Mr. JOGESW CHANDRA GUPTA:** Is it the policy of Government to take action against criticisms asking for a change in the present system of Government?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** I have nothing to add to my answer.

**Mr. SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE:** With reference to answer (c), will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state if the present policy of Government is going to continue as it is till the end of the year?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** The Hon'ble Member has already refused to answer any more questions about the policy of Government.

**Mr. SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE:** If you will kindly look at answer (c), you will find that the Hon'ble Member has already made a statement with regard to the policy of the Government. I want to know whether Government intend continuing the present policy till the end of the year.

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** As far as I am aware no change in policy is contemplated.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state how he understands that without any change of policy these prosecutions have increased so much?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** Because the habit of seditious writing and speaking has increased so much.

#### Canalisation scheme of the Dolaikhali, Dacca.

**Q. Mr. KHALWAJA NAZIMUDDIN:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Irrigation Department be pleased to state when the canalisation scheme of the Dolaikhali within the limits of the Dacca Municipality originated?

(b) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that the scheme is for a substantial improvement of the Dacca city?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state why the matter is being put off from year to year?

(d) What is the present position of the scheme?

(e) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether there is any likelihood of money being provided for the scheme in the next year's budget?

(f) If the answer to (e) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state when the Government proposes to take up the scheme?

**MEMBER in charge of IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Alhadj Sir Abdelkerim Chuznavi): (a) 1919.**

(b) Yes.

(c) The scheme is one of some magnitude involving the dismantling, remodelling and construction of bridges and the construction of locks and sluices. The estimates have been under revision, and designs have now been prepared for the three bridges which will be dismantled.

(d) The revised project was received in April last and is now under scrutiny.

(e) and (f) There is no likelihood of money being provided for the scheme in the next year's budget. It is not possible to say when the scheme will be taken up, as it has not yet been administratively approved.

#### Comilla Victoria College.

**61. Maulvi SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** (a) Has the attention of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Education Department been drawn to—

(i) the Minutes of the Syndicate, dated the 5th July, 1929, that there should be two elective representatives of the Teaching staff on the Governing Body of the Comilla Victoria College; and

(ii) the reply given by Hon'ble Mr. A. Marr in the Bengal Legislative Council on the 20th March, 1929, to unstarred question No. 66?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what step, if any, the Government propose to take in the matter?

**MEMBER in charge of EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McAlpin): (a) (i) Yes.**

(ii) Yes.

(b) None at the present stage.

#### Gumti embankments.

**62. Babu AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Irrigation Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the construction of escapes in the Gumti embankments has been under the consideration of Government since 1884?

(b) Is it a fact that the schemes for escapes and storage reservoirs were under its consideration in 1917?

(c) Have the Government come to any final decision regarding these two schemes?

(d) Is it a fact that according to expert opinion it is possible to control the Gumti floods and that the evils arising from the Gumti embankments are not irremediable?

(e) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to make a full statement about its policy with regard to the Gumti floods and Gumti embankments?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes; it was decided not to proceed with these schemes.

(d) Opinions are divided on this point.

(e) In view of the grave difficulties—engineering, financial and administrative—in the way of the measures suggested, such as the abandonment of the right embankment, the construction of storage reservoirs and the provision of escapes, the policy of Government has been to maintain these embankments as efficiently as possible as they have proved an efficient means of control in years of ordinary flood water. To meet extraordinary floods, such as occurred this year, the question of constructing escapes will be further examined.

#### Steamer "Hatiya."

**63. Maulvi SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Marine Department aware that there is a steamer named *Hatiya* under the management of the River Steam Navigation Company, Limited, plying between Barisal and Chittagong?

(b) Is it a fact that it has no arrangement or cabins for any first, second, and intermediate class passengers on it?

(c) Is it a fact that it has no waterproof roof on it to protect the passengers from rains, except a piece of canvas?

(d) Are the Government considering the desirability of drawing the attention of the steamer company to these matters?

**MEMBER in charge of MARINE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McAlpin):** (a) Yes.

(b) The *Hatiya* has no first or second class accommodation, but intermediate class passengers are provided with screen berths when required. The vessel cannot be provided with cabins on the upper deck, as the Ship Surveyor will not permit such additions.

(c) The *Hatiya* has double awnings of canvas. A wooden roof is not permitted on this vessel by the Surveyor.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Prisoners with political motives.

**64. Mr. SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political (Jails) Department be pleased to state—

- (i) the number of prisoners undergoing imprisonment for political offences;
- (ii) whether any of them have been transferred to jails outside Bengal;
- (iii) the number of political prisoners confined in the jails outside Bengal, their names, and the jails in which they are confined;
- (iv) the provinces in which Bengal political prisoners are at present confined;
- (v) whether political prisoners are grouped in batches, or whether they are confined one in each jail;
- (vi) whether political prisoners are confined in separate cells or are grouped together in association wards; and
- (vii) whether the Government are considering the desirability of having a separate jail for the political prisoners?

**MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL (JAILS) DEPARTMENT  
(the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter):** (i) The term "political offence" is not defined in any law, but there are 21 persons who are believed to have had political motives in committing breaches of the Explosives and Arms Act and the offences of murder, robbery, and sedition for which they were convicted.

(ii) Yes.

(iii) 7. It is not in the public interest to publish their names and places of confinement.

(iv) Bombay, Burma, the United Provinces, and the Punjab.

(v) In Bengal with one exception there is more than one individual of this class in every jail in which they are confined.

(vi) Except for one special class prisoner, they are together in association wards.

(vii) No.

**Mr. SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE:** With reference to answer (v), will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state if the prisoners are confined in batches of two in each jail?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I must ask for notice.

**Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reason for his reply to question (ii)?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** The reason is that it is a fact.

**Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY:** My question was that I wanted to know the reason for transfer of the prisoners to jails outside Bengal.

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** If you want to know that, I must ask for notice.

**Mr. SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE:** How long are they going to be confined in jails outside Bengal?

**The Hon'ble Sir FROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I must ask for notice of this too.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Has the Hon'ble Member any information as to whether the jails outside Bengal where the prisoners have been transferred are more comfortable or less comfortable than the Bengal jails?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I have no information.

#### Grand Trunk Canal project.

**65. Mr. SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Irrigation Department be pleased to state whether it is proposed—

- (i) to introduce legislation during the course of the year in connection with the Grand Trunk Canal project; and
- (ii) to ask for any grants during the course of the year in connection with the said project?

**The Hon'ble Alhadji Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** (i) No.

(ii) No further grant above that already sanctioned in the current year's budget for maintenance of works already undertaken will be asked for.

**Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the nature of the works undertaken as referred to in answer (ii)?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** I must ask for notice.

**Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER:** Are these for the maintenance of dredgers only?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** Not so far as I am aware.

**Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER:** How long will this maintenance work continue?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** Until a final decision is arrived at on the whole subject.

**Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA:** Is the project under consideration?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** Not at present, but it will be soon.

**Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA:** Under whose consideration will it be soon?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** Government is prepared, when the time comes, to take the public into its confidence.

**Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER:** Is it not a fact that the scheme has already been given up so far as the Bengal Government is concerned?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** Government has an open mind in the matter.

**Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER:** Why was the last Committee dissolved?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** I am afraid I cannot tell you that; it was before my time. If definite information is wanted, I must ask for notice.

**Mr. SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the expenditure is being incurred only for maintenance of works, and not for construction?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** The answer is in the affirmative.

**Mr. D. N. ROY:** Why is this maintenance work necessary?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** The expenditure is unavoidable on account of the work already done.

**Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER:** What is the work already begun?

**Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA:** What is the nature of the work already done?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** Order, order. I am afraid it will be impossible for me to carry or, if all the members rise at once and begin to put questions to the Hon'ble Member. I shall be the last person to allow that.

3-30 p.m.

**Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER:** What is the nature of the work which is being maintained?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** I would ask for notice.

**Mr. JOGESW CHANDRA GUPTA:** Do I understand the Hon'ble Member to say that this has passed the stage of project and that there is some actual work which requires maintenance?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** The answer to that question is in the negative.

**Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state that excepting acquisition of land and the buying of dredgers no other work has been done?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** The answer to that is in the affirmative.

**Babu SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** Is the Hon'ble Member aware that a meeting of the Standing Waterways Committee is going to be convened for the purpose of re-opening the question.

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** Yes, shortly.

**Babu SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** Is it the intention of the Government to continue the maintenance of these works even before the Waterways Committee have met and decided whether it is necessary or not?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** The hon'ble member will find that I have already answered that question. I shall also add that the Standing Waterways Committee is going to meet very soon.

**Babu SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** Can the Hon'ble Member give any information to this House as to the approximate date for the meeting of this Committee when it is going to be convened?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** Yes, the dates are the 24th and 25th of this month.

**Mr. SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE:** In his reply to question No. (ii) by the expression "maintenance of works" does the Hon'ble Member mean maintenance of the dredgers?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** That question has already been answered.

**Babu SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** For how many years has this maintenance of works been continuing?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** Ever since the project was made.

**Babu SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to enlighten the House as to the date when this project was brought.

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** I regret I am unable to say anything as I was not in Government at that time.

**Babu SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** Does the Hon'ble Member believe in the continuity of his office or does he answer only for himself?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** I do not allow that question.

**Babu SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state why it was necessary to continue the maintenance of works after the project was dropped?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** All these unavoidable expenses were in connection with the work already done.

**Mr. P. N. GUHA:** Has any representative of the Government of India been invited to attend the Standing Waterways Committee?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** Yes, he is Mr. Harris.

**Mr. P. N. GUHA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state if the Government of Bengal after abandoning the project has now re-opened the whole question at the instance of Mr. Harris?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** The question will be re-opened when the Committee, of which Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose is already a member, meet.

**Mr. D. N. ROY:** After the project has already been dropped, what was the necessity of this Waterways Committee?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** For reconsidering the whole question and particularly Mr. Harris's note in regard to the state of affairs in the Sunderbans.

**Babu SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** Was the note of Mr. Harris called for by the Government of Bengal?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** Not as far as I am aware. If a definite reply is called for I must ask for fresh notice.

**Mr. P. N. GUHA:** Is the Hon'ble Member aware that at the time of dissolving the last committee the Gazette Notification definitely stated that the Government of Bengal had decided to abandon the project finally?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** Not that I am aware of.

**Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether all the files in connection with the Grand Trunk Canal project are in existence?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** I believe they are except those of minor importance.

**Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER:** Is the Hon'ble Member quite sure that the file in connection with the dredger *Ronaldshay* is in existence?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** The answer is in the affirmative.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state why this scheme is being re-opened when the Government is finding difficulty about finance regarding primary education and other sanitary schemes?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** I am afraid I have nothing more to add to what I have already stated.

**Mr. P. N. GUHA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether an opportunity will be given to this Council before the scheme is further proceeded with?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** I may inform the hon'ble member that so far no scheme has been framed yet.

**Babu SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the re-opening of the matter has been at the instance of the Government of India?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** The answer to that is in the negative.

**Babu SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the re-opening of the matter has been at the instance of the British Government?

**The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM CHUZNAVI:** No.

**Flood in East Bengal.**

**Maulvi SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state—

- (i) the causes of the recent flood in East Bengal;
- (ii) (a) the area, and
- (b) the number of people affected by the flood;
- (iii) the money that the Government have paid or advanced up till now towards the relief of the people affected and in what ways; and
- (iv) what measures if any, do the Government propose to take in order to prevent a recurrence of flood in these areas?

**MEMBER in charge of REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter):** (i) The flood in the Sadar subdivision of the Tippera district was solely due to two breaches in the Gunti embankment; in the Brahmanberia subdivision, it was due to excessive rainfall in the Assam hills.

- (ii) (a) 436 square miles.
- (b) 351,700.
- (iii) Rupees one lakh has been allotted for agricultural loans, and Rs. 1,500 for gratuitous relief.

(iv) It is proposed to consider the question of providing escapes in the embankments. Excessive rainfall in the Assam hills and consequent flooding of the river Meghna are unusual phenomena for which it is difficult to provide protective measures.

**Maulvi SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether Rs. 1,500 is enough for gratuitous relief for four laks of sufferers?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** That is a matter of opinion.

**Maulvi SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** Does the Hon'ble Member think that Rs. 1,00,000 is sufficient for agricultural loan?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** This again is a matter of opinion.

**Mr. SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE:** Is it not a fact that a sum of Rs. 1,500 is quite insufficient for the purpose of relief?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** Considering that labourers cannot be had there for 10 annas a day and considering also that for agricultural purposes labourers have been imported from

Noakhali and from other facts stated in the report of the District Officer, it may be said that there is not much distress. Local officers are watching the situation very carefully. If more help is necessary such help will be given.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the figure 351,700 people affected by the flood is quite correct?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** Barring typing and printing mistake I have no reason to believe that it is not correct.

**Execution of commissions by Calcutta Small Causes Court.**

**67. Srijut TARAKNATH MUKERJEA:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement for the year 1928-29 showing—

(i) how many mufassal commissions for the examination of witnesses were received by the Chief Judge of the Calcutta Small Causes Court;

(ii) how many of such commissions were entrusted to—

(1) Pleaders; and

(2) Bench Clerks;

for execution;

(iii) how many local commissions for examination of witnesses were issued by the Judges of the Calcutta Small Causes Court; and

(iv) how many of such commissions were entrusted to—

(1) Pleaders; and

(2) Bench Clerks?

(b) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state—

(i) whether the Bench Clerks are entitled to execute such commissions; and

(ii) whether as Government servants they are eligible to earn the fees for such commissions?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) (i) Under rule 112 of the Rules of Practice framed by the Hon'ble High Court the Chief Judge may appoint a person other than a pleader to execute commissions received from other courts.

(ii) Yes.

*Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) of unstarred question No. 67.*

Number of mufassal commissions for the examination of witnesses received by the Chief Judge of the Calcutta Small Causes Court—414.

Number of such commissions entrusted to (1) Pleaders; and (2) Bench Clerks; for execution—(1) 357; (2) 57.

Number of local commissions for examination of witnesses issued by the Judges of the Calcutta Small Causes Court—94.

Number of such commissions entrusted to (1) Pleaders; and (2) Bench Clerks—(1) 60; (2) 32 and 2 to Engineers.

#### **Election of the Sadar and Feni Local Boards of Noakhali district.**

**68. Maulvi MUHAMMAD FAZLULLAH:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

- (i) that the election of the Sadar and Feni local boards of the Noakhali district took place on 10th and 11th April, 1929; and
- (ii) that the names of the elected and nominated members of the aforesaid boards have not yet been approved by the Government and published in the *Calcutta Gazette*?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reason for the delay?

(c) Is it a fact that the present Vice-Chairman of the Noakhali District Board or any other person on his behalf had any interview with the Hon'ble Member in charge or any other member of the Government in connection with the present election and nomination matters of the Sadar and Feni local boards of Noakhali?

(d) If the answer to (c) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the purport of the discussion that took place between the Hon'ble Member and the Vice-Chairman?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** (a) (i) Yes.

(ii) The names of the elected and nominated members have not yet been published in the *Calcutta Gazette*.

(b) The Commissioner's proposals are under the consideration of Government. Delay has been due to inquiries necessitated by petitions of objection to the election, read with a judgment of a civil court, and to some uncertainty as to whether one nominated member was willing to accept office.

(c) and (d) Amongst others, the present Vice-Chairman of the Noakhali District Board interviewed me. His representation in the interview related to the legality of the election about which a petition of objection accompanied by a petition of a civil court was submitted to Government.

**All-India gun licences sanctioned in Pabna.**

**69. Srijut BIJAY KUMAR CHATTERJEE:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state—

- (i) the number of all-India gun licences sanctioned by the present District Magistrate of Pabna between 1927 and up to April, 1929;
- (ii) names and residences of the persons; and
- (iii) grounds for recommendations in each case?

**MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly):** (i) 29.

- (ii) A statement is laid on the table.
- (iii) The District Magistrate has discretion to make licences in Form XVI for possession and going armed valid throughout British India under rule 33 (2) of the Indian Arms Rules, 1924, in the case of persons who require the endorsement. No further recommendation is necessary.

*Statement referred to the reply of clause (ii) of unstarred question No. 69 showing the names and residences of the persons who were granted all-India licences by the District Magistrate of Pabna between 1927 and up to April, 1929.*

Serial Nos.	Names.	Residences.
1	Babu Surendra Kumar Roy. (Extended over British India on 14th March, 1928.)	Sirajganj.
2	Babu Ratan Chand Sajer .. ..	Ditto.
3	Khodiar Khan .. ..	Gazipur district, now Pabna.
4	Babu Rash Mohon Das, Sub-Inspector of Police, D. I. B.	Sirajganj.
5	Ganga Narayan Sen. (Extended over British India on 3rd February, 1929.)	Jiarpura, Sirajganj.
6	Babu Madhu Sudan Mondal, Circle Officer	Bhangura, Pabna.
7	Mr. S. K. Ghose, M.A. (Cantab.), son of J. N. Ghose, Esq., Assistant Sessions Judge, Muzaffarpur.	Pabna, now Hyderabad.

Serial Nos.	Names.	Residences.
8	Asfandiar Khan .. .	Moura, police-station Karimaddin-pur, district Gazipur, now Pabna.
9	Tribeni Tewari .. .	Mathurapur, police-station Jagadishpur, district Arrah.
10	Prosanna Kumar Bhoumick, District Agricultural Officer.	Pabna.
11	Ahmedazzaman, Inspector of Police ..	Ditto.
12	Binoy Bhusan Datta .. .	Ditto.
13	Khadem Hossain Khan .. .	Moura, police-station Karimuddin-pur, district Gazipur, now Pabna.
14	Girindra Chandra Das Gupta. (Extended over British India on 29th November, 1927.)	Kalia, district Jessor. At the time of issue of the licence at Pabna.
15	Babu Ranajit Chandra Lahiry, M.A., B.L. (Extended over British India on 12th October, 1928.)	Pabna.
16	Babu Khitish Chandra Chaki, B.L. (Extended over British India on 25th January, 1928.)	Ditto.
17	M. Mahomedjan, Sub-Inspector of Works, E. B. Railway, Hardinge Bridge. (Extended over British India on 4th December, 1928.)	Gujranwala city, mahalla Takia Mashamsha, district Gujranwala, Punjab, now Paksey.
18	Jogendra Mohan Ganguly. (Extended over British India on 17th January, 1929.)	Paksey.
19	Bilaaram Agarwala. (Extended over British India on 25th February, 1928.)	Ishurdhi, police-station Sara, district Pabna.
20	S. L. R. Naidu, Esq., District Traffic Superintendent, E. B. Railway.	Paksey.
21	Maulvi Zillar Rahaman, Circle Officer ..	Ullapara, Pabna.
22	Khondkar Md. Abedal Haque ..	Sahazadpur.
23	Sew Datta Roy Agarwala .. .	Rajputana, now Ishurdhi.
24	Babu Annada Prosanna Bhaduri ..	Porjona, police-station Sahazadpur.
25	Babu Jnanada Prosanna Bhaduri ..	Ditto.
26	Babu Pares Nath Bhaduri ..	Ditto.
27	Babu Jitendra Nath Bhaduri ..	Ditto.
28	Babu Nikunja Lal Pakrashi ..	Sthal, police-station Chouhali, district Pabna.
29	Rai Sahib Upendra Lal Pakrashi, Co-operative Inspector.	Ditto.

[9TH AUG.]

**Excise policy.**

**70. Dr. MOHINI MOHAN DAS:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of Agriculture and Industries (Excise) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the excise policy of the Government is minimum of consumption with maximum of revenue?

(b) Is it a fact that this policy has not proved to be successful?

(c) If so, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

(d) Is it a fact that the consumption of liquor has increased in bulk gallons?

(e) If not, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the consumption of country spirit, district by district, in bulk gallons for the last three years?

**The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McALPIN:** (a) The excise policy of the Government of Bengal is explained in the Press Communiqué, dated 25th August, 1921, and in Resolution No. 5568 Excise, dated 27th November, 1926, copies of which are placed on the library table.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) In the last three years, no.

(e) The member is referred to columns 1 to 4 of the Imperial Return IV—Appendix A, attached to the Reports on the Administration of the Excise Department for the years 1925-26, 1926-27 and 1927-28, copies of which are placed on the library table.

**Expenditure on the Simon Commission and Provincial Committee.**

**71. Srijut TARAKNATH MUKERJEA:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state the amount spent by the Government of Bengal during the years 1927-28 and 1928-29 for—

(i) the Simon Commission; and

(ii) the Provincial Committee formed in Bengal to assist the Commission?

(b) Were these amounts provided in the Budget?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state from which head those amounts were spent?

**MEMBER in charge of APPOINTMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly):** (a) (i), (ii) Expenditure on the Simon Commission was Rs. 12,809 in 1927-28 and Rs. 1,05,657 in 1928-29; on the Provincial Committee nil in 1927-28 and Rs. 4,742 in 1928-29.

(b) and (c) Specific provision for the Simon Commission was made in the Budget for the expenditure incurred in 1928-29 on the Special Officer and his establishment. The remaining expenditure was met from the normal departmental budget grants. Expenditure on the Provincial Committee was met from the budget grant "47.—Miscellaneous—Special Commission of Enquiry."

**Mr. P. N. GUHA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to indicate the position of the report which the Provincial Simon Committee has issued for which so much money has been spent?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** Will you tell me, Mr. Guha, what portion of the answer does this question arise from?

**Mr. P. N. GUHA:** I find that a certain amount of money was spent over the Committee. What has the Committee done?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** I submit that this does not arise out of the question.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** Strictly speaking, the question really does not arise; but, I think Mr. Guha has been able to make out a case in his favour and if the Hon'ble Member finds it convenient to answer this question he may do so.

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** I am afraid the matter is not within my special cognisance but if the hon'ble member asks a question during the next session he will no doubt be given an answer.

**Babu SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** Does this amount include the cost of the police arrangement for the Simon Commission?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** It includes the cost of the police arrangements.

**Babu SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** Does it include the cost of the barbed wire set up at the Howrah station?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** There was no barbed wire at the Howrah station.

**Babu SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** When this sum was appropriated from the departmental budget, was the committee on Public Accounts consulted before it was done?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** No, it was no concern of the Public Accounts Committee.

**Babu SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** Was it consulted subsequently?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** That, Sir, is a matter for the Finance Department.

**Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether any money was spent on the Provincial Committee after the dissolution of the Bengal Legislative Council?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** I must ask for fresh notice.

**Mr. SUBASH CHANDRA BOSE:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the items of expenditure that go to make up the sum?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** I cannot do so now. I was not asked for it, otherwise I would have collected the information.

#### **Recruitment to Bengal Civil Services from the depressed classes.**

**72. Rai Sahib REBATI MOHAN SARKAR:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the present number of Deputy Magistrates and Sub-Deputy Collectors recruited from the depressed classes in Bengal for the last 10 years?

(b) Are the Government considering the desirability of recruiting a larger number of men from the depressed classes as Deputy Magistrates and Sub-Deputy Collectors?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** (a) Information as to the caste of recruits to the Bengal Civil Service (Executive) and the Bengal Junior Civil Service prior to 1923 is not available. From 1923 to 1928 inclusive the number of recruits appointed who belong to the classes described as depressed in either the Calcutta University Commission report or the Census report is as follows:—

(1) Sub-Deputy Collectors—3,

(2) Deputy Collectors—nil.

(b) Government do not propose to make any change in their present policy.

**Filling up a vacancy in the office of the Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Bengal.**

**73. Mr. A. F. M. ABDUR-RAHMAN:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in June last there was a vacancy in the office of the Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Bengal?

(b) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the vacancy was—

(1) in the cadre of the Ministerial Officers of the Lower Division; or

(2) in the cadre of typists?

(c) Is it a fact that a reference was made to the Chief Secretary requisitioning him to supply the names of candidates of the Lower Division assistants from the Secretariat intending to stand for the appointment?

(d) How many applications were received by the Military Secretary to the Governor's office for the vacancy?

(e) How many of them were from—

(1) the Lower Division assistants;

(2) the typists?

(f) How was the post filled up?

(g) Is it a fact that the claims of the Lower Division assistants were overlooked in contravention of the standing orders of the Finance Department and that a typist was appointed from outside the Secretariat?

(h) What are the minimum standard qualifications required under the rules for the appointment of candidates to the posts of Lower Division assistants?

(i) What is the qualification of the present incumbent?

(j) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the appointment was made on some special grounds?

(k) If so, what are those grounds?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** (a) Yes.

(b) In the Lower Division of the office.

(c) Yes.

(d) Seven.

(e) (1) Three.

(2) One.

- (f) By a Muhammadan candidate who knows shorthand and typewriting.
- (g) No standing orders of the Finance Department were disregarded.
- (h) The production of evidence that the candidates have been through a complete secondary school course.
- (i) General experience of office work and a knowledge of shorthand and typewriting.
- (j) and (k) The appointment was made on the ground that the candidate had the qualifications described in the answer to (i).

**Mr. JOCESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the gentleman who has been appointed to the post has any certificate for shorthand and typewriting knowledge?

**The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY:** I must ask for notice.

#### Muhammadan employees in the Jail establishment.

**74. Maulvi ABDUL HAKIM:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political (Jails) Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing separately the number of—

- (i) Executive officers;
- (ii) Clerical staffs including those of the Manufacturing Department;
- (iii) Head Warders; and
- (iv) Warders,

at present attached to each of the—

- (1) Central Jails;
- (2) District Jails; and
- (3) Sub-Jails,

respectively?

- (b) How many of each class in those jails are Muhammadans?
- (c) The approximate number of Muhammadan prisoners locked up in those jails on any one day of the month of July, 1929?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the library table.

**Resolutions**  
**(on matters of general public interest).**

The discussion on resolution regarding the appointed Chairman of the District Board of Bankura was then resumed.

**Babu BARODA PRASANNA PAIN:** Sir, being connected with one of the premier self-governing institutions of the province, I feel it my duty to enter my most emphatic protest against the action of Government with regard to the elected Chairman of the District Board of Bankura. From what we heard last night from the mover of the resolution, I have no hesitation in characterising that action as retrograde and reactionary, and as being utterly subversive of the fundamental principles of local self-government. After 170 years of British rule we have not got any self-government worth the name; and if Government now, by a few strokes of the pen, begins taking away from us what little was wrung from them after years of hard and strenuous struggle, then surely, it cannot accuse us of unfairness if we refuse to believe in the honesty of its intentions or in the sincerity of its professions. We object and we protest against this action, because we believe that it is not an isolated case of its kind against an individual chairman, but because we believe that it is a part of the policy of Government, a policy directed against the Congress with a view to undermining the influence which it is establishing over the people by means of these self-governing institutions. Government did the same thing at Midnapur, Government tried to do the same at Mymensingh, and if I am not mistaken, Sir, the sword of Democles is still hanging over my devoted head. The situation at Bankura, from what I heard last night, is desperate. There the Chairman of the District Board is not functioning at present. On the other hand, the members of the District Board are determined not to take this insult lying down. In these circumstances, instead of saying any hard words which I know will not move hard-hearted Members or their hard-hearted Secretaries, I would appeal to the Hon'ble Member in charge to try his best to relieve the tension at Bankura. I would appeal to him to give up this policy of distrust and suspicion; I would appeal to him to give up this policy of unseemly interference with the domestic affairs of these self-governing institutions, and I would appeal to him to introduce in their place a policy of trust and confidence. Trust, I need not remind him, always begets trust; confidence, I need hardly say, always begets confidence. I would appeal to him not to allow the fetish of prestige to stand in the way of righting the wrong which has been done at Bankura. I would appeal to him not to mistake the temper of the people at the present time. Speaking for the municipality which I have the honour to represent in this Council, I am not ashamed to confess that we like to be

trusted by Government, I am not ashamed to confess that we like to feel that we are being trusted by Government in our efforts to improve the amenities of life for those whom we have taken under our charge. I am not ashamed to confess all this. But I will say at the same time that we will resent very strongly any interference sought to be made with our internal affairs. Time is coming when other and more important branches of administration will have to be made over to the people. Why then these petty pinpricks? I would ask the Hon'ble Member not to forget that he is an Indian; I would appeal to him not to forget what he is hurting and whom he is hurting; I would appeal to him finally not to be led away by his other colleagues in the Cabinet. If my appeal has no effect on the Hon'ble Member in charge, I appeal to the European block in this House not to make themselves unnecessarily popular by throwing in their lot with a member of Government who only the other day confessed to his life-long association with the Indian National Congress. There may be more in this than meets their eyes.

**Mr. C. W. CURNER:** After the series of appeals which have been made from the other side more reminiscent of a test match than a debate in this Council, I rise to explain a few points of facts which have not yet been acknowledged by the mover of this resolution and his supporters. The facts which go back to the formation of union boards in the district of Bankura are these:—

In 1927 union boards were notified I think throughout the Bankura district and only came into work towards the end of that year. Their first financial year would be 1928-29. Under the provisions of the Village Self-Government Act, as members are well aware, there are two types of taxes in union board areas. There is first the old Chaukidari tax and there is also a new tax for improvements under section 37 (b). Again, under another section of the Village Self-Government Act, the district board is empowered to give a grant to any union board which may merit it. Not only so, but there is a statutory obligation on the part of the district board to give a grant to a union board which may make a small sacrifice in raising a rate under section 37 (b) for improvements. Union boards in the Bankura district in the first year raised rates to the amount of Rs. 17,000. I would ask the House whether this shows that the boards function against popular will. Well, they raised this voluntarily and they looked to the District Board to carry out its obligation imposed upon the Board —whatever the personal views of the members may be—by the Legislature. But what did the District Board of Bankura do? They passed a contumelious resolution allotting rupee one for the union boards in the whole district. The absurdity of this action and the

failure of the District Board to recognise its statutory obligation were brought to the notice of the District Board. But it reaffirmed its decision. Later on the Chairman of the District Board wrote a long letter—about which more may be heard later—explaining the position of the Board. So much as regards the relationship between the District Board and the union boards. Then came the election towards the end of the year 1928. The gentleman whose conduct is the subject of this debate was elected again, but I think I am right in saying not by a unanimous vote nor by a very large majority. I think that possibly his attitude in the matter of union boards was responsible for reducing his hold on the District Board. However, he was elected and the question naturally came up whether this election should be approved by Government. Government have their statutory responsibility, and under section 22 of the Local Self-Government Act were faced with the question of its exercise. Then some delay occurred, and the reason for this delay was first that the new Commissioner took charge in Hooghly in January and naturally he wished to acquaint himself with the general position and with the views of the Chairman whose conduct was in question. Unfortunately, not long afterwards occurred the death of Mr. Hart. These are the causes for the delay in coming to a decision. The Commissioner wished to seek every possible avenue, and at one time he possibly thought that the Chairman would accommodate himself to the position created by the formation of union boards in Bankura. From some time in February or March it became quite clear that the Chairman was not only acting as the figurehead, as the statutory representative of the District Board, but was actually engaged in a personal campaign against the prosperity and the progress of the union boards throughout the Bankura district. That is a fact which the mover of this resolution and his supporters have deliberately obscured. The Chairman's activities went beyond those of a statutory chairman of a district board. He threw his whole weight into the campaign to destroy the union board movement which had started with such promising prospects. Those were the circumstances in which Government eventually decided that the election of the Chairman could not be approved of; and the reasons were that Babu Manindra Bhusan Sinha by placing himself in opposition to the policy of Government in the establishment of union boards in the district of Bankura, and by engaging in propaganda to thwart that course of policy has placed himself in a position incompatible with the duties of the statutory chairman of a district board. That position seems to be logically irresistible and I cannot make out on what ground it can be attacked. Well, Sir, quite apart from the personal activity of the Chairman there lies behind this debate a much larger question, and that is the old question of attack by a certain section of the politically minded community on the union boards. It is not the Chairman of the District Board who is attacked or defended. It is the union boards.

The mover of this resolution, with a gracious restraint which I appreciated, refrained from criticising the action of the late Collector of Bankura as he might have done if that officer had been alive. I must reciprocate and refrain from saying anything in his support which may be taken as controversial. But this I think I may say without fear of contradiction from any quarter of the House, that if there was one officer in Bengal who devoted the last years of his service to the intensive study of the union board movement, and if there was one officer who was peculiarly susceptible to the chords of popular feeling—that was Mr. Hart.

4 p.m.

No district could have started on the union board movement under more prosperous auspices than those offered by the presence of Mr. Hart in their midst, and it was for this reason that the Bankura union boards started their career with the noble chance they had.

Sir, I should like, before I sit down, to carry the argument just one step further. I would remind the House that it is just 10 years ago that the union boards first came into existence. And I think that to the ordinary Government officer with experience in the districts of Bengal there has been no more amazing change, in the sphere of local self-government at any rate, than that created by the growth of this organization during the last 10 years. Beginning from Dacca, the movement has spread practically to all the districts in this province, and every district, which it has visited, has welcomed the new opportunities of political life and of public activity given to the villagers by the union board movement. I need not emphasize the contrast between the president of the old chaukidari panchayet, who was little more than a collector of taxes, with the menace of a distress warrant in the background generally—between that unfortunate official—and the president of the union board, who is a representative of a self-governing body, which, however small, contains in it all the elements of self-governing activity. Why do my friends on the opposite side of the House launch this attack and other attacks on the union board movement? Because, Sir, they know that the union board movement will forestall, and nullify every attempt on the part of the politicians to put a strangle-hold on the political life of the villagers in the interests of any particular party. It is only through the union boards that the ordinary Bengal villager, literate or illiterate, is learning the principles of self-government, which it is his destiny to exercise in the years to come.

Sir, I need not take up the time of the House any longer at this stage, and I would only express the trust that the House will not invest with the halo of political martyrdom the arch-enemy of popular autonomy in the district of Bankura.

**Babu SANTOSH KUMAR BASU:** Mr. President, Sir, I was waiting for a speech from the Government benches before I decided to take part in this debate. Mr. Gurner has come out with a speech of such refreshing candour that I must be thankful to him for supplying me with points for reply. I was at a loss throughout this debate to find out what had happened that this gentleman, Mr. Manindra Bhusan Sinha, should have merited the treatment that has been his unfortunate lot to receive at the hands of Government. Sir, when a man comes forward to shoulder the burden of public work—when a man comes forward and cheerfully offers his services—without any thought for gain, from absolutely disinterested motives, for the purpose of service and service alone, he does so in the hope that he would meet with every encouragement and support, if not admiration, from responsible members of Government. That seems to me the normal attitude to take up for the members of Government. But in this instance, Sir, it has been our lot to find that a public worker of such an acknowledged reputation and spirit of public service, like Mr. Manindra Bhusan Sinha, should have been visited with condign punishment—as severe a punishment as could befall the lot of any public worker in the cause of self-government. I was wondering why Mr. Manindra Bhusan Sinha should have been visited with such punishment at the hands of the Local Self-Government Department of the Government of Bengal. Now, Mr. Gurner has come out with the explanation, and he has informed the House that Mr. Sinha had to be penalised because of the particular attitude he had taken up in regard to the union board movement. He has come out with an explanation, as I was saying, with refreshing candour, and he has enlightened the House with the information that the union board movement had to be blessed, and Mr. Sinha had to be made the scape-goat because of his attitude towards that movement. Now, Sir, are we to understand that the responsible Chairman of a public body, like the Bankura District Board, should not be allowed the privilege of having his own views on the question of the union board movement in his district? Was he not performing his statutory duties satisfactorily, or did he travel beyond the limits of his statutory responsibilities, as Chairman of the District Board, because he had taken up a particular attitude towards the union board question? I would appeal to the Hon'ble Member in charge of Local Self-Government, I would appeal to his Secretary, my esteemed friend Mr. Gurner, to point to one single reason why an elected chairman of a district board should tie himself to the chariotwheels of the Local Self-Government Department, and take his cues and opinions from that department. I challenge any one from the Government benches to say that it is not open for a non-official chairman of a district board to take up an attitude in regard to a public question, which he, in a just, disinterested, and bona-fide way, might think he ought to take up in his position of chairman of the district board. Is it open to the

Secretary of the Local Self-Government Department to dictate policy to the non-official members and chairmen of local bodies with regard to public questions of grave importance to the country? I am surprised to find, Sir, how Mr. Gurner with all the solemnity and seriousness that he could command, with all the responsibility of his position, could take his stand on the floor of this House and put forward a lame and halting plea that Mr. Sinha had to be made a scapegoat, because his wishes and views did not fall in with the pet views of Government on the question of union boards. One would have thought, Sir, that the charge against Mr. Sinha was one of corruption, of deliberate negligence of duty, or of gross inefficiency, and so Government had to take up its stand against him so definitely and decidedly, as to remove him from his office, which he occupied as the result of the confidence reposed in him by the accredited representatives of the people on the District Board. But it was not so. Has there been the slightest suggestion to that effect? If so, I, irrespective of any mandate from any party, would have cast my vote entirely and wholeheartedly in support of the step that Government has taken; because, Sir, those who are connected with public work in local self-government bodies have got grave responsibilities cast on their shoulders for carrying out their duties with perfect integrity and absolute regard for public weal. They must not spare themselves in their service for public work, and so far as lies in their power, they must try to achieve the highest level of efficiency in their work. Had there been any such allegation against this gentleman, I, for myself, would not have been wanting in according my wholehearted support to the step which Government has taken in the matter..

I submit, Sir, that it is a most lamentable confession that Government has chosen to make to-day through Mr. Gurner that Mr. Manindra Bhushan Sinha has been sacrificed because his ideas, his policy in regard to the union board movement, did not meet with the approval of Government. So far as I am concerned, I only know the rudiments of the movement; and I think that if it is developed on proper lines it may achieve great results. It must also be admitted that just as the Government are anxious that through these union boards the public life of this country may not slip out of their hands and get into the hands of the politicians, so, also, the accredited representatives of public opinion in this country may equally be anxious that public life in the villages of Bengal may not slip out of the hands of the real friends of the people and get into the hands of Circle Officers and such subordinate officers, who work at the beck and call, and carry out the behests, of the powers that be in the Secretariat. Sir, it is a double-edged weapon. If you want to wield the weapon so as to keep away the politicians from the village life of Bengal, the politicians can turn round and say "Away, away, from your gentle work of tampering with the political life of the villages."

Sir, I am sorry that the only charge that the Hon'ble Member and the Secretary in charge of the Local Self-Government Department could bring against this gentleman was his attitude towards the union board movement, though he might have ample justification for the particular views he held. Sir, he is not present here; otherwise he might have been able to justify the attitude that he had taken up with regard to this question. It is a question which is not certainly beyond controversy, to say the least of it. The country has been divided over this question, and certainly the Government of Bengal might have had that liberality, that generosity, which is usually associated with public life, so as to allow this gentleman the option of having a particular view in this matter. But, no, that is not to be. Government has initiated a policy, and if it wants that not only its own officials and subordinates should carry out that policy faithfully but that also those who have been chosen by the people for public work must bow to its bidding and carry out its policy according to its dictates, then it must be hopelessly mistaken. I submit, Sir, that there could not be a greater self-condemnation of its action than that pronounced by Mr. Turner in this House.

Sir, I am not going to take up the time of this House any more, but I do say that freedom of action, freedom of opinion—if these expressions are not meaningless jargon so far as the Government is concerned—must be left to the representatives of the people on these public bodies, and they must be given the fullest scope possible to work out their own policy even if it be in opposition to that of Government. If this is not done, it would be the grossest possible denial of the spirit and essence of self-government to these members of public bodies. And if that is the gravamen of the charge against Mr. Manindra Bhusan Sinha, if that is the head and front of his offending, I submit, Sir, that Government stands self-condemned out of its own mouth, and the House will have no hesitation in asserting the principle that the fullest liberty of opinion should be conceded to non-official members of public bodies by accepting this resolution put forward by my friend, Srijut Bijay Kumar Chatterjee. This House should not have the slightest hesitation in accepting this resolution and thereby declaring once for all that it does not support Government in the action that it has taken against a very efficient and able public man—the late Chairman of the District Board of Bankura.

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** May I, Sir, mention one thing? It is that before the debate on this resolution is finished—I understand that the House will adjourn at 4.30 p.m. for prayers—I may have an opportunity of speaking in reply to the debate that has taken place.

[9TH AUG.]

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** Sir Provash, the position is that the mover of a resolution has the right of reply, and to avoid speaking twice, you would, perhaps, like to speak after he has exercised this right. You can, however, rise and speak whenever you may think proper to do so from your point of view.

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** Sir, the thing is that to-day you have to take up another important item of business—I mean the adjournment motion—and I understand that the House will adjourn at 4.30 p.m. I am only drawing your attention to the fact that I want an opportunity to speak.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** I do not think that it is possible for me to impose any restriction whatsoever on the course of debate, as I find that members are anxious to speak on this matter.

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I am not asking you, Sir, for a moment to impose any restriction on the course of the debate, but I am asking you in the interest of fair debate that certain points of fact and certain other questions that have been raised should be replied to, and I desire to have an opportunity to speak.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** I think, Sir Provash, if you will only get up and catch my eyes at the right moment you will be able to speak. It is so simple and easy.

**Maulvi ABUL KASEM:** Sir, I am not fully aware of the reasons which made Government not to take the step of sanctioning the election of the Chairman of the Bankura District Board. I rise to express my opinion on certain statements that have been made in this House.

4-15 p.m.

My friend Mr. Basu said that the executive head of a district board has every right and justification to take all steps he can to promulgate his own policy about a particular matter, but, Sir, I am afraid he forgets that the district board has certain statutory duties and responsibilities, and one of these statutory duties is to make grants to and foster the union boards in the district. We may or may not like union boards, but as long as the law makes them, it is the duty of the chairmen of the district boards and the district boards to support and maintain them and try to improve them. Naturally, Sir, when the chairman of a district board fails in his statutory duties, I think there is justification for Government to come in and intervene. We have been told that it is tampering with local self-governing bodies. When the Bengal Village Self-Government Act was passed in this legislature, it

was said that the foundation of self-government had been laid in Bengal. The Government in this country have always followed the policy of building from the top. My idea is that the union boards ought to have been established long before the district boards, but they came very late—better late than never. If we sincerely wish that the country should attain self-government, we must educate our people. But to educate the people in self-government and to start and carry on local self-governing institutions we must begin in rural areas and not in this Council.

We have been told that the Chairman appointed by Government was so unpopular that he could not maintain his office and was forced to resign. I happen to know Mr. Nagendra Nath Ghosh personally, and as I represent the district of Bankura in this Council, I have had occasion to come into contact with him. He was Chairman of the Bankura Municipality for some years and was a popular chairman and has done excellent service as Chairman of the District Board. He was hounded out of office, because he did not agree with the political opinions and the political conduct of the people of Bankura.

My friend has laid down the principle that the chairman of the district board has the right to take steps to see that his political opinions on public questions are given effect to. Would he concede the same right to district boards other than Bankura? I think that if the chairman of the district board attempts to enforce his political opinions on union boards by executive authority, and if it is not palatable to my friends, they would be the first to shout against him and come forward to announce that he had no business to abuse his power as executive authority to meddle with their affairs.

I think, Sir, Government has a statutory duty to perform to save the rustic people from exploitation due to the influence of the chairman of the district board, and they cannot overlook the responsibility vested in them in this matter.

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** We have heard many eloquent speeches this afternoon and also yesterday, but the relevant points are really very short and simple. The points really are these: Is the district board bound to perform its statutory duties, and if the district board is bound to perform its statutory duties, is not the chairman of the district board, the chief executive of that board, equally bound to perform those duties? That is one point that I would ask the House to bear in mind.

Another point is, if the district board and its chairman have to perform their statutory duties, is or is not the Government also bound to perform their statutory duties? After all, Sir, all our local bodies are creatures of statutes. The district boards are creatures of the

Local Self-Government Act, and certain statutory duties are also imposed upon them by the Village Self-Government Act. Instead of tiring the patience of the House—the time at my disposal is very limited—I would draw the attention of the House to section 45 of the Village Self-Government Act which makes it obligatory on the district board to make grants to any union board which has imposed taxes under section 37 (b): that provision of law is "provided always that in the case of any union board which has imposed a rate under clause (b) of section 37, the district board shall make a suitable grant." There are other sections which indicate that the district board must take care of the union boards, must foster and help the union boards, but I would not quote the sections. Nor is it necessary for the purposes of my points to enter into the controversial question as to whether village union boards are good or bad institutions. Opinion on that question may be divided; even amongst my friends on the right, opinion about the utility of the union boards is divided. I know the great Muhammadan community are in favour of union boards. There are others in favour of union boards, but let me proceed on the assumption that the union boards are not good institutions. The question as to whether union boards should be supported or not is an irrelevant issue to anyone who seeks election, to perform statutory duties of a district board member. If that gentleman is just to his trust and honest in his convictions, as soon as he feels that his personal opinion or the public opinion that he represents is antagonistic to the statutory duties he has to perform as a member of the district board, he ought to resign and the more so if he is the chairman. My friends on the right will not accept office as Ministers; I respect them for their consistency in this matter. But would they consider it honourable to accept office as Minister and then go against the institution of Ministry? I am sure many of my friends on the right would consider it dishonourable to take upon themselves the statutory duty of fostering union boards as chairman of the district board and then utilise that position for the purpose of destroying union boards.

I have here before me appeal after appeal issued by this gentleman, Babu Manindra Bhushan Singh for destroying union boards. In one of the appeals he asks the public of the Bankura district to get rid of the union boards, to destroy the union boards. He goes further and says (here the Hon'ble Member read out a passage in Bengali from an appeal). For the benefit of those who do not follow Bengali may I shortly explain what he says? He says: "Let me and my friends try the methods of persuasion for destroying union boards; if that is unsuccessful let us try the method of social boycott of supporters of union boards; if that is not successful let us try to follow the example of Dantai in Midnapore and Bardoli." Therefore, it is a wrong issue when some of my friends say that because his opinion about union

boards is different from the policy of Government, his election was not affirmed. The real question is this, if a gentleman who wants to be chairman of a district board tells you in advance that he will not perform his statutory duties, and not only will not perform his statutory duties but will go directly against such duties, can any Government whose duty it is under section 22 of the Local Self-Government Act to affirm his election, take any other course but refuse to affirm the election? Now Government is not at all influenced in this matter by any vindictive spirit. Babu Manindra Bhushan Singh was going on in this way for about 3 years; he was then the elected Chairman; no statutory duty was cast at that stage on Government to deal with the matter. After that he was re-elected and then came a stage when a statutory duty was cast upon Government to exercise their judgment about affirming his election, and if Government found that by his past conduct, his participation in the propaganda, and his proclaimed views he would utilise his position as Chairman to destroy union boards and thus act directly against his statutory duties, would it not have amounted to abdication of their function if Government affirmed his election?

**Mr. SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE:** On a point of information, Sir. Is it not a fact that the District Board of Bankura have voted a sum of Rs. 5,000 for the Union Board?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** If Mr. Bose wants to know I may tell him that they started by voting Re. 1 only, later on and in the following year they voted Rs. 5,000 which was also inadequate and according to our information very probably this sum would have been utilised for destroying a number of union boards by discretionary grants with a propaganda purpose. But that grant by the District Board is wholly irrelevant to the Chairman's personal attitude.

**Mr. SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE:** May I refresh the memory of the Hon'ble Member as to what happened in 1928?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I do not like to be interrupted; I could have gone into the irrelevant point raised by the interruption had I more time at my disposal. I take my stand on the point that when this gentleman tells us in advance that not only will he not discharge his statutory duties, but will go against his statutory duties, we cannot as a Government disregard the statutory duty cast upon us.

**Mr. SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE:** How is the Chairman responsible? Explain that.

[9TH AUG.,

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** The Chairman has, as already stated, if the members have ears to hear, issued his personal appeal about social boycott and resorting to Bardoli tactics—

**Mr. SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE:** Does the Hon'ble Member invite the Congress members to—

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** Order, order.

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I am sorry I cannot give you any information on irrelevant points raised by the interruptions as my time is limited.

**Mr. SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE:** Is not that appeal signed in his personal capacity and not as Chairman?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I am sure a finicky point like that will not appeal to any gentleman with commonsense in this House. We may reduce it to an argument like this. A man is a man, and if he appeals as an individual that he will destroy union boards, it is one thing, but if he comes forward with an appeal as Chairman of the District Board that is a different thing. I am sure men of commonsense will take it that this gentleman will try to destroy the union boards. His attitude all along was anti-union board.

A point has been attempted to be made that the object of Government is to interfere with the freedom of local bodies. I may assure in most emphatic terms that there was no such object, but if any local body refuses to carry out its statutory duties then Government will in turn perform its statutory duty without hesitation and without fear.

**Mr. SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE:** Do you want another Bardoli agitation?

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** That is another matter; that is a political question. I do hope my friend, when he is cooler, will think over the matter.

**Mr. SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE:** I am quite cool now.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** Order, order.

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** Some personal attacks were made on Babu Nagendra Nath Ghose in connection with

this matter, but as I know my friend Babu Bijay Kumar Chatterjee always takes a delight in personal attacks, I will not go into it, especially as Maulvi Abul Kasem has referred to this matter in his speech.

4-30 p.m.

Now, Sir, there are 183 union boards in this district and, as Mr. Gurner has already mentioned, when these boards raised voluntarily Rs. 17,000, this fact ought to get rid of the suggestion that these union boards were purely concocted affairs and the local people—

**Srijut RADHA GOVINDA RAY:** I do say that it is a concocted affair.

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** I am stating what is a fact and you are making an assertion.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** Mr. Ray, you have not my permission to rise in your place to speak.

**The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:** Sir, I again repeat and place this fact before the House. This fact of self-taxation shows that the people are willing to work the union boards and Rs. 17,000 was actually raised by the poor villagers. This ounce of fact is worth a good deal more than the tons of assertions from the other side.

There is another point and that is that the power of Government to remove a chairman is limited by statute, and I am afraid on the resolution as it stands, even if Government were prepared to accept it, it is not in the power of Government to remove Babu Nagendra Nath Ghose. (Interruptions). May I proceed, Sir, without interruption? Under section 28 of the Local Self-Government Act the Local Government may remove any chairman of a district board or local board, etc., etc., if he is declared insolvent, convicted for any offence, etc., etc. My point is certain specific points are mentioned there, and Government have not the right to remove any chairman at their sweet will and pleasure. I ask those who are pleading for the autonomy of local bodies, how would they like if a chairman whose appointment was confirmed by Government was subsequently removed by Government.

There is another important point and that point is why did we not give another opportunity to the district board to elect its chairman. The answer is, as my friends have themselves said, the majority in the district board were in favour of destroying union boards and if we asked them to elect another chairman they would probably have elected Babu Manindra Bhusan Sinha or some one like him and so it would not have been possible to have a chairman willing to perform his statutory duty with relation to union boards.

The motion of Srijut Bijay Kumar Chatterjee was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

## AYES.

Ahmed, Maulvi Shamsuddin.	Mukherjee, Srijut Taraknath.
Ali, Maulvi Hassan.	Nag, Babu Sub Lai.
Bagoohi, Babu Romeo Chandra.	Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Banerjee, Babu Prometha Nath.	Pain, Babu Baroda Prasanna.
Banerji, Mr. P.	Pal Choudhuri, Mr. Ranjit.
Basu, Babu Santosh Kumar.	Peddar, Mr. Ananda Mohan.
Bose, Babu Bojoy Krishna.	Rahman, Maulvi Azizur.
Bose, Mr. Subhas Chandra.	Ray, Dr. Kumud Sankar.
Chakraburty, Babu Jatindra Nath.	Ray, Kumar Shib Shokhreswar.
Chatterjee, Srijut Bijay Kumar.	Ray, Srijut Radha Govinda.
Chatterjee, Babu Amarendranath.	Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Sanat Kumar.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Ashrafuddin.	Roy, Babu Manmatha Nath.
Chowdhury, Maulvi Abdul Ghani.	Roy, Dr. Bidhan Chandra.
Das, Dr. Mehini Mohan.	Roy, Mr. D. N.
Das Gupta, Dr. J. M.	Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar.
Dutt, Babu Sarai Kumar.	Roy, Mr. Sadhan Chandra.
Ganguli, Babu Pratul Chandra.	Roy Choudhuri, Babu Hem Chandra.
Ghose, Babu Amarendra Nath.	Roy Choudhuri, Rai Bahadur Satyendra Nath.
Gupta, Mr. Jagesh Chandra.	Saadatullah, Maulvi Muhammad.
Hakim, Maulvi Abdul.	Simed, Maulvi Abdus.
Hachemy, Maulvi Syed Jalaluddin.	Sarker, Babu Naliniranjan.
Hegde, Kazi Emdadul.	Sen Gupta, Mr. J. M.
Khan, Babu Debendra Lal.	Singh, Srijut Taj Bahadur.
Mazumdar, Mr. Birendrnath.	Tarkashirtha, Kaviraj Bimalananda, Pundit
Meitra, Babu Surendra Mohan.	Blushan.
Meitra, Srijut Jagendra Nath.	
Meekerjee, Mr. Syamaprasad.	

## NOES.

Ali, Mr. Altaf.	Hussain, Maulvi Latafat.
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan.	Inoch, Mr. J.
Blair, Mr. J. R.	Jenkins, Dr. W. A.
Cassella, Mr. A.	Karim, Maulvi Abdul.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Alimuz-zaman.	Kasem, Maulvi Abu'l.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Haftzur Rahman.	Khan, Khan Sahib Maulvi Muazzam Ali.
Chowdhury, Haji Badi Ahmed.	Khan, Maulvi Tamizuddin.
Cohen, Mr. D. J.	Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Colman, Mr. E. R.	Laird, Mr. R. B.
Dain, Mr. G. R.	Lamb, Mr. T.
Dash, Mr. A. J.	Leslie, Mr. M.
Eason, Mr. G. A.	Mallik, Mr. Mukunda Behari.
Feroqi, Khan Bahader K. G. M.	McAlpin, the Hon'ble Mr. G. C.
Fazlullah, Maulvi Muhammad.	Mitter, the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder.
Ferrester, Mr. J. Campbell.	Moherly, the Hon'ble Mr. A. N.
Ghosh, Mr. M. G.	Nag, Reverend B. A.
Ghusnavi, the Hon'ble Alhadj Sir Abdolkarim.	Mazimuddin, Mr. Khwaja.
Ghohrist, Mr. R. N.	Ormond, Mr. E. G.
Guba, Mr. P. N.	Philip, Mr. J. Y.
Gurner, Mr. C. W.	Rahman, Mr. A. F.
Hegg, Mr. G. P.	Rahman, Mr. A. F. M. Abdur-
Hephyno, Mr. W. S.	Hay Chaudhuri, Mr. K. G.
Hossain Nawab Muhamarruf, Khan Bahadur.	Rose, Mr. Q. F.
Hossain, Maulvi Muhammad.	Rey, Mr. Bijoy Prasad Singh.
Hug, Khan Sahib Maulvi Bazul.	Roy, Mr. Sarat Kumar.

Hug, Khan Sahib Maulvi Bazul.	Rushforth, Mr. F. V.
	Sarker, Sir Jadunath.
	Sarker, Rai Sahib Nobati Mohan.

Shah, Maulvi Abdul Hamid.  
 Skinner, Mr. S. A.  
 Selaiman, Maulvi Muhammed.  
 Stapleton, Mr. H. E.

Tate, Major General Godfrey.  
 Thompson, Mr. W. H.  
 Travers, Mr. W. L.  
 Twynam, Mr. H. J.

The Ayes being 51 and the Noes 61 the following motion was lost:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that it should immediately remove the appointed Chairman of the District Board of Bankura, and restore to the people the right of electing their own Chairman."

[At 4.45 p.m. the Council was adjourned for prayer and it reassembled at 5 p.m.]

#### **Motion for adjournment of the Business of the Council.**

**Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY:** I beg to move the motion that stands in my name, viz., that the business of the Council be adjourned for the purpose of discussing the recent mill strikes near Calcutta, the situation thus created, the disturbances and consequent loss of life that have arisen in connection therewith.

I must at the outset make it perfectly clear to the members of this House that I am not a Labour leader, bogus or real. I do not belong to any trade union. I have not had any conversation before I put the motion for acceptance to the President. I did not have any conversation with any Labour members except two of my hon'ble friends, Mr. K. C. Ray Chaudhuri and Maulvi Latafat Hossain, members who have been nominated by Government to represent Labour in this Council. I claim that I, as a representative of the municipalities to the north of Calcutta wherein lie the mills which have now closed down on account of the strike, have a right to represent their grievances in this Council. I have represented this constituency not once, not twice but the members of my constituency, 60 per cent. of whom are workers in these mills, have sent me here for the third time and have shown their confidence in me. I had the privilege of knowing them intimately both in my professional capacity and otherwise and I am aware of the life they lead in these mill areas, the surroundings amidst which they work from day to day. I know the mental outlook of most of these workers who look to their lot in life as a matter of kismet, who work there day in and day out without murmur and without grumbling. Therefore it is not only my privilege but my duty to put the whole matter regarding the strike before the members of this House.

There is another reason why I have brought this motion before the House. I as a member of the Congress Council Party have got an obligation, a duty to perform. Now one of the duties cast on us by our pledges is to secure a proper adjustment of the rights of the capitalists and of the labourers inside the Legislature. A strike of this magnitude

[9TH AUG.,

is surely an indication that there is a clash between the interests of the employer and the employee. There are the demands of the labourers on the one hand and the obduracy of the capitalists on the other. I know that in this fight the odds are against the workers. In this struggle I admit capital has as much its own rights and privileges as labour. Ordinarily speaking we outsiders should not lightly interfere in a dispute of this character unless it is in the interests of a higher objective, namely, to secure peace and orderly progress. I have, therefore, in discussing this question framed four issues:—

1. Has this widespread strike gone beyond the ordinary limit, the ordinary form of trial of strength between the employer and the employee? Has it reached a stage at which the Legislature might very well claim in the interests of peace and good will that they should step in and say that this strike must end at the earliest opportunity, and that a proper adjustment must take place in the relationship between capital and labour?
2. My second issue is: Assuming for the purpose of argument that the mills are private concerns, have the public any right to insist on the demands of two lakhs of people being properly considered and satisfactorily met?
3. The third proposition is: Is it not the Government's duty to take the public into their confidence and to investigate the essential causes of the strike, to use their influence in removing these causes, to restrain those initially responsible for the strike and to prevent its recurrence?
4. Has the action so far taken by the members of Government been such as to indicate that there is a desire on the part of Government to gag, to curtail and to control the infant labour movement in the interests of the capitalists?

I admit that the causes of the strike involve questions which are of a complicated character. In a jute mill the workers are paid either according to the number of hours they work, or according to the amount of outturn they put in, in the course of a week. Rates also vary in different mills. There are some who have workers working on one-shift system and others who have a two-shift system. Sometime back, as I have ascertained from inquiries, the number of days on which the mills are kept open was reduced to four days a week. Besides the rates the workers receive a bonus which they call war bonus; they also receive what is called a cut bonus depending upon the amount of work done by a particular labourer; they also receive a khoraki at the end of the week obviously to compensate for the unemployed days of the week or enforced idleness of the labourers. Early in July the mills proposed to increase their working hours from 54 to 60 per week. The wages calculated to be paid to different workers varied in different mills. The

majority of the mill owners, I believe, agreed to pay an increased rate to the workers depending upon the increased number of hours and the increased amount of work done by them, but the majority refused to a proportionate increase in the cut bonus or to continue giving them a khoraki. The situation in the Barrackpore mill area is that a long chain of mills from Halishahar in the north to Garden Reach in the south are lying idle. They have closed down throwing no less than 2 lakhs of labourers out of work. There are no less than 30 mills in the area, of which as far as I have been able to gather, 3 are still working. I shall refer to these 3 later on. More than 30 thousands looms, it is calculated, are not working. I toured round my own constituency two days ago and it seemed to me that there was a calm in that area, a calm which is seen before a storm. At a conference held on Monday in the Bhatpara municipal office Mr. K. C. Ray Chaudhuri, our Labour member, is reported to have said that as President of the Kankinara Labour Union he gave notice to the mill authorities in May last for the consideration of the demands of the labourers. Dr. Miss Das Gupta, President of the Bengal Jute Workers' Union, issued a statement on the 22nd July in the Press in which also she drew the attention of the mill authorities to the needs and demands of the labourers. These demands include the payment of cut bonus, a bonus proportionate to the extra 6 hours' work which were demanded by them from the 1st July last. Their demand consisted in the continuance of the provision of the khoraki also. I do not for this moment refer to the other demands which they have made, demands for higher wages, demand for more leisure and better housing and maternity benefits and for abolishing corruption, etc. These demands I understand have been formulated from time to time by Labour members of Parliament who have visited these mill areas. I personally interviewed a large number of the workers, not as a representative of the mill authorities, not as a representative of Government, nor even as a representative of Labour unions but I simply spoke to them as members of my constituency. I know them intimately and most of them tried to explain to me—although they looked very sullen—their point of view. I have already said that they insisted on an increase proportionate to the bonus and the continuance of the khoraki. They also suggested that in future if possible their wages, including the war bonus, the cut bonus, the khoraki and the rates, should be consolidated on the basis of the present method of paying by piece work, so that they might know what they are to expect from the mills from week to week for their labours. While they were narrating these grievances I could discern in them a spirit of grave misgiving which led me to suspect that they did not believe in the assurances given them by mill managers. In fact some of them made it perfectly clear that they would like to have a written assurance from the authorities. I know that the mill owners would put forward the argument that the khoraki was given at a time when the workers were

staying idle, but now that they are working for 5½ days a week they must not ask for khoraki. They say that although they are not increasing the cut bonus every individual worker as a matter of fact would be getting, by working 60 hours a week, a larger sum than they used to get before July, but I say, Sir, if such hours of work on the part of the labourers mean an increase in the profits of mill owners—a profit which sometimes amounts to 75 per cent. or more—one can very well ask why the workers should not share in this additional profit.

5-15 p.m.

The increases in rates have been admitted it is true. Why not the bonus also, why should khoraki not be continued, even although the khoraki might have been given at a time, when on account of the slump in the market, the mill authorities have to reduce the number of days of work from five days to four days in the week? If the mill owners had reduced the number of hours of work and left the workers idle it was for their own interest that they did so. When they asked the workers to work for longer hours, they did so in their own interest. They did so because they know that they would be able to sell the increased production. If such be the case, the worker should be made a partner in the game not only where such work is concerned, but also where profits are concerned. Sir, it is a well-known rule that the rates which the employee gets follow the law of demand and supply, but that should not prevent the worker from representing his grievances even when the odds are against him. This is the origin of the strike. I have satisfied myself that two or the three mills where the strike has not taken place are paying increasing rate, increasing bonus and increasing cut bonuses.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** Dr. Roy, your time is up.

**Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY:** May I have two or three minutes more, Sir?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** Yes.

**Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY:** This strike has obviously developed slowly. It started in some of the Jagatdal group of mills nearly three weeks ago and it has gradually affected one mill after the other. This fact would show that the strike is not a preconceived action of mischief-mongers or communists but is the result of the appreciation by the labourers of the helpless conditions they are in. They have come to know that "Heaven helps those who help themselves." The strike is not limited to the mills on the eastern bank of the Hooghly but also have affected the mills on the other side.

Unions have started their work on behalf of these strikers. I am not here to analyse their activities or their motives nor are these materials before me to express a judgment. But I do know that the Government has intervened even before the recent disturbances took place in Gouripore Mill resulting in loss of lives. The Government officers on the other side of the Hooghly have served notices under section 144 and intend, I am told, using the powers of the section 107. I am told that the Subdivisional Officer in the Champdani area has taken personal interest in this matter and has sided with the capitalists. I do not know how far the report is true that he with policemen had been to the cooly lines, forcing the men to get to work in the factories. I have been told that the Subdivisional Officer of Hooghly has been holding court in the Manager's bungalow for the purposes of institution of actions under section 107. These are matters which raise very serious issues. Here are the workers anxious to raise their wages and wrest from the unwilling hands of the employers what they considered to be their dues.

Sir, we all should watch with keen interest, perhaps such a struggle but should keep our hands off so long as the struggle is just and fair on both the sides. The Government can step in if there is any breach of peace. If there is any, the Government should take steps to consider who are responsible for such breaches of peace and who should be restrained. Sir, the common law in every land recognises the place of justification for many actions that we do, and the motives that prompted these actions. Even a murderer gets the benefit under such conditions. Therefore, in a matter like this one may pertinently ask, whether such action on the part of the officers of the Government, as indicated above, cannot be construed as one indicative of an undue leaning towards the capitalists. The issue of restraining orders may affect the situation only superficially but undue exercise of them is bound to create an impression that they are devoted against the rising activities of the labour unions and against the formation of strong trade union bodies, which have become to-day a power in the land whence cometh the present rules of this country. The British officers of the Government cannot forget the steps by which power in their country has greatly gone over from the Crown and aristocracy to the labourers and the workers. Is it not a fact that any student of history if placed in the position of trust and power would utilise them for the purpose of avoiding a similar result in this country? That is the situation which we are faced with to-day and which I ask the members of the Council to consider.

I desire to bring before the House the events that happened on Tuesday last outside the Gouripore Mill area. I have tried as carefully as was possible to—

(Here the member, having reached his time-limit, resumed his seat).

**Mr. R. B. LAIRD:** Sir, it is perhaps unfortunate that the question of jute mill strikes has been raised in the Bengal Legislative Council, and it is to be hoped, in the discussion which is now taking place, that as little as possible will be said which will prejudice negotiations between employers and employees.

In connection with these strikes, which have unfortunately spread extensively during the past week, I wish to make a brief statement.

In the case of certain mills in the Bhatpara district, certain demands were put forward, and these demands, after some demur, were met in full by the Managing Agents concerned. A notice to this effect was posted on the mill gates, but in spite of this the workers have up to now not resumed, and the position, so far as these particular mills are concerned, is in the nature of a deadlock.

At practically all other mills which have gone on strike during the current week, certain adjustments were made after the mills went on to extended working hours, but since the actual strikes no demands have been made by the workers. So far as my information goes, no grievances or demands have been put forward, and the workers having ceased to operate, negotiations of any kind have been made practically impossible.

This is certainly the case with the particular group of mills with which I am concerned, three of which are on strike. At these mills no demands of any description have been made, and in the absence of female workers, who were undoubtedly intimidated, we had no option but to close down.

This intimidation of female workers is in the nature of a new departure so far as these strikes are concerned, and as the mills must have all departments running if manufacture is to continue, it is obvious that under these conditions the mills must eventually close down.

At the meetings which have been held and which are still being held in the various districts, the women have been told that in the event of returning to work, they will be molested in various ways, both on entering and leaving the mill compounds.

In discussions which I have had with various sections of labour it has been indicated to me in very plain language—

- (1) that the operatives wish to work;
- (2) that they are contented with wages paid; and
- (3) that they have no demands to put forward;

but that owing to outside interference in some shape or other, they are being prevented from working.

That, Sir, is the exact state of affairs not only in Titaghur district, where there is a population of over 60,000 people, but it is also the position obtaining in other affected areas.

During the past month various pamphlets, issued from an address in Harrison Road, have been broadcast in the mill areas, and these pamphlets, without exception, have been a misstatement of facts. They generally conclude with a long list of demands, which it would be impossible to comply with, and which, if conceded, would have the effect of making trade, so far as the jute mills are concerned, an absolute impossibility.

Apart from these demands, however, I would again repeat that it is my experience that none of these have emanated from the workers themselves, nor have they even been discussed with the Managing Agents or Mill Managers.

One question that has been given considerable stress to is the standardisation of wages, and in this connection I will try to explain how complex a problem this is.

In my opinion, wages must vary for at least six sound reasons, and these are—

- (1) the situation of the mill;
- (2) method of manufacture;
- (3) accommodation provided for workers;
- (4) medical attention;
- (5) supply of water; and
- (6) supply of electric light.

Dealing with the first question, viz., the situation of the mill, it is the case that the cost of living in the Calcutta area is higher than is the case 20 miles either north or south of Calcutta. At practically all of the mills outside Calcutta, workmen's houses are provided in several cases free of charge, while there is in certain congested districts, owing chiefly to lack of space, very little in the way of accommodation provided. This, of course, means that the workers have to find their own quarters, for which rents have to be paid, and the result is a higher rate of wage.

The water supply is likewise a most important point, and at most mills this is provided free and in unlimited quantities to the workers.

In this connection an incident occurred the other day when those responsible for the intimidation of women were not satisfied with their efforts, and made a determined effort to bring out the boiler house workers and firemen. These employees explained that if they ceased work, the supply of water in the bazaar would stop, and this had the immediate effect of these particular workers being left in peace to attend to their respective duties.

There are various other phases in connection with the demand for standardisation of wages, too numerous to go into in detail, and my object in raising this question is simply to illustrate how impossible the proposition is.

While on the subject of wages, there is another curious feature in connection with the present strikes, and that is the refusal of the workers to take payment of the money due to them.

At Titaghur this morning we had all in readiness for the distribution of wages, but nobody put in an appearance. I leave this House to draw their own conclusions as to why this state of affairs obtains, and as to how the unfortunate workers are managing to carry on. Sir, it is my opinion that it is a case of absolute intimidation. The present strike, to my mind, as also in the opinion of all members of the Indian Jute Mills Association, is not in the true sense of the word a trade dispute, but a strike engineered by outside interference.

One publication issued yesterday explained exactly the commercial aspect of the strike so far as buyers of goods are concerned.

5.30 p.m.

Sir, I am convinced that the jute mill worker generally is a contented person and that, if not interfered with, is likely to remain so.

The Managing Agents have been accused of being reticent in connection with the present strike, and for not explaining to the public what the actual state of affairs is. Sir, the general public know as much as we ourselves do, and until such time as the workers actually resume operations, I fail to see how any fresh light can be thrown on the position.

As Chairman of the Indian Jute Mills Association, I can inform this House that the Managing Agents of the mills on strike are paying, as they always have been willing to do, correct proportionate increased remuneration for the extra hours worked. I would also mention that khoraki has never been stopped.

So far as working hours are concerned, it may interest the House to know something about the actual position in the mills. Although the machinery actually runs 60 hours per week in single shift mills and 120 hours per fortnight in double shift mills, the actual hours of individuals are not to this extent. There are sufficient extra hands employed to permit of intervals of rest to practically all workers. So far as single shift mills are concerned, labour in actual practice does not work more than 10 hours per day, while with regard to double shift workers, females never exceed 9 hours per day, i.e., 36 hours and 45 hours in alternate weeks, and every third week hardly average 8 hours per day for four or five days as the case may be.

With regard to male labour in double shift mills, the hours are naturally somewhat longer, but do not exceed 44 hours in a four-day and 54 hours in a five-day week.

Surely, these hours of labour in both systems of work cannot in any way be termed excessive.

A statement appeared in the newspapers the other day, issued by Miss Probhabati Das Gupta, which dealt with the question of wages and the complexities of details in connection with how the various wages of the different workers are made up. It is surely sufficient to say in this connection what I have already said, namely, that the Managing Agents of the mills on strike are paying correct proportionate increased remuneration for the extra hours worked, and I feel certain that if there are cases where wages are slightly out of proportion, this is a matter which can be very easily rectified on the management being asked to do so. Our trouble so far has been the total absence of *bona fide* grievances on the part of the workers, and this House will, I am sure, readily admit that unless negotiations are possible as between employers and employees that misunderstandings are bound to obtain.

In the article referred to, the question of maternity benefits is raised, and I have no hesitation in stating that such benefits are paid by certain Managing Agents. I am also quite sure that in the event of other Managing Agents being approached in this connection, that any requests for maternity benefits are almost certain to receive favourable consideration. At several mills I know of, clinics in charge of qualified lady doctors have been started in recent years, and I can also assure the House that further progress in this connection is now being made at various other mills. In these clinics, as in the case of mill dispensaries, treatment and medicines are given free of charge, and at one particular clinic, with which the Company I represent is concerned, the daily attendance figures are not only very large but are increasing. This particular clinic I refer to has now been in operation for the past 7 or 8 years.

**Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** Sir, in order to understand the strike situation in the jute mills, we must understand what is meant by the single shift and the double shift system, and what difference it makes to the workers. In the single shift system, a labourer works for 11 hours a day from 5.30 a.m. to 11 a.m., i.e.,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hours, and again from 1.30 p.m. to 7 p.m., i.e., another  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hours. The labourers in a single shift mill worked before the 1st of July for 11 hours for 4 days, and 10 hours for another day in the week, i.e., 54 hours during one week. According to the double shift system, which varies in different mills, the mills run for  $13\frac{1}{2}$  hours, the full time allowed under the Factory Rules. In these mills, the labourers work for 9 to  $9\frac{1}{2}$  hours a day for four days in one week and five days in another week, alternately. Under

the single shift system, 6 men are employed per loom on an average, while under the double shift system 9 men are employed per loom on an average. So, the average number of workers employed under the single shift system per thousand looms works up to 6,000, and under the double shift system to 9,000. Therefore, Sir, when there is a conversion of a mill from a double shift to a single shift system, one-third of the workers are sacked. It will also appear that according to this calculation, if justice is to be done to the workers, they ought to be paid under the single shift system  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times the wage they get under the double shift system.

Sir, it has been said that the mill-owners are not aware what the demands of the workers are and what their difficulties are. The difficulties can be understood if we go back to the fact that some time after the Great War—since 1920—the mills have been steadily reverting from the double shift to the single shift system, and the result of it has been that the wages of the workers have been reduced. The workers have also been deprived of their employment, because a lesser number of men has been required, and when unemployment increases there is a corresponding decrease in wages. Bribery and corruption also increase, as a result of the efforts made by those who want to retain their service in the mills. Therefore, it is very well known that a strike occurs whenever the mill-owners revert from the double shift to the single shift system.

I may also tell the House how the influential group of jute mills, which are members of the Jute Mills Association, have worked in the past. Soon after the War, the mills not only began to revert to the single shift system but also to restrict the hours of work and production, in order not to give up their profit. The mill-owners of the group of mills which are members of the Association further decided that they would not increase the number of their mills, or looms, or spindles. When new mills were started by people who did not belong to the Association, they found that it was no use trying to restrict their production, and therefore they have now reverted to the single shift system and increased the hours of work from 54 to 60 per week. They now propose to employ only 6 men where they used to employ 9, but there has not been a corresponding increase in the salary. That is the real reason behind this strike. Of course, the question of khoraki and "cut" bonus is also very important. Sir, only one thing will illustrate the unfairness of the bonus. By increasing the time from 54 to 60 hours, they are increasing the number of pieces by one, though they are not paying the bonus. Though they are getting 10 pieces in place of 9, they are not paying the bonus which they paid even for 9. This was clearly detected by the workers when, in the Jagatdal group of mills, the workers started their work, and, after three weeks' work, when they went to collect their wages, they found that in spite of the extended

hours of work they were paid less than they used to get before. So this strike situation is not, as Mr. Laird wants this House to believe, the work of outside interference. The strike is clearly the result of a policy that is being pursued by the jute mill-owners in order to keep up their profit. The jute mill-owners are reverting from the double shift system to the single shift system; and, as I have already said, it puts out one-third of the employees out of employment. It is well known to this group that there is chronic unemployment in the jute mill area of about 60,000 workers, whereas the total jute mill workers in the area are between 3,40,000 and 3,70,000 men. It is rather surprising that Mr. Laird has said that they are not aware of the demands of the workers. They are very well known. First of all as a result of this reversion from double to single shift system, there is insecurity of service, as the number of unemployed men averages about a crore. Then, a labourer is dismissed without any notice when he has not satisfied either a sardar or a mill assistant, because it is known to the mill authorities that there is plenty of unemployed men on whom they can lay their hands. Therefore, Sir, the real—the greatest—reason of this restlessness amongst the workers is the insecurity of service. They get a month's pay in lieu of notice, or an inquiry in cases of gross misconduct. If that is their demand, I do not think every impartial man, who does not want the workers to be simply at the mercy of their employers, will say that this is not a reasonable demand. Taking advantage of the unemployment consequent upon a reversion to the single shift system from the double shift system, they levy undue fines for the least bad work. In some cases they have fined even one rupee.

Further, there is bribery and corruption rampant in all the mills. The unemployed labourers in order to get employment have got to pay from Rs. 10 to Rs. 50 to the sardars, and, after they get into service, they have to pay the sardars every month a contribution of eight annas or a rupee, in order to retain their service. This latter sum is shared with the babus, if not with the mill assistants. This is a grievance which is well known.

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Then, there is the question of corporal punishment and the question of low wages generally. These workers demand a reduction of hours, and they demand 8 hours' work a day for 5½ days. That is, however, a matter which can be adjusted mutually. Then, Sir, the main agitation amongst them is not to revert to the single shift system where double shift system prevailed and we know that at least in the big mills at Bowria and Fort Gloucester, where really the fight started, the trouble arose not on account of outside interference, but on account of reversion from the double shift to the single shift system. There was the shooting, there were all the forces of Government on the side of the capitalists,

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and the poor workers had ultimately to go to the wall. There are other grievances, such as maternity benefit, half-pay on sick leave, etc. If I remember aright, Mr. Rose, in speaking some time back, pointed out that the workers got 4 months' leave. I was very much amused when I heard that. Since then I made inquiries about this 4 months' leave and I found that it was enforced leave, because no work was to be found, and not that leave was granted to them. Then there is the demand for better housing. When the workers made a demand like this, has the Government ever asked the employers whether the demand of the poor workers is a legitimate demand or not? Now, from whom are they making this demand? They are making this demand from Messrs. Kinnison and Company who pay a dividend of 400 per cent. They are making the demand from companies who during the War time and for some time after made profits between 100 and 200 per cent., and they are making the demand from companies, who, if we refer to the *Capital* of August 8, have all made profits of not less than 30 to 70 per cent.

Then, Sir, what do these mill-owners say? They now say that they are ready to consider the demands of the workers, but they have secured a reserve of 150 crores, and they can easily close down the mills and pay dividends for 25 years to come. When they are making such huge profits, is it not the duty of Government, I ask in all seriousness, to exercise their influence on the side of the poor workers when they come forward with their grievances, and not to range themselves on the side of the capitalists by lending them their armed police. But what do we find now? Everywhere the police are busy guarding the mills and mill areas. Sir, I had an occasion to go to Hooghly, Serampore and other courts in order to release the men who have been taken in custody and who have been asked to find security for Rs. 2,000 for the simple fact that they are employees of jute mill unions. They were there to lay before the management the legitimate grievances of the workers.

The learned mover has referred to the conduct of the Subdivisional Officer—

(Here the member having reached his time-limit resumed his seat.)

**The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McALPIN:** Sir, I wish to make a statement at this stage of the debate on behalf of Government, in order to express a hope that this debate will be conducted in such a manner that nothing may be said or done which will interfere with the settlement of the dispute by the parties themselves.

In this connection I may be permitted to congratulate Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy on the moderation with which he opened the debate.

**Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY:** But the speech was cut short.

**The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McALPIN:** The situation is complicated by three factors:—

*First*, the basis on which wages for certain classes of workers, particularly weavers, are calculated is somewhat abstruse to persons not immediately connected with the jute industry.

*Second*, the mills work on two different system, the single shift and the double shift system.

*Third*, in the great majority of stoppages no statement of grievances has been put forward by the workers themselves.

Let me just account the salient features in the development of the trouble. The first sign of trouble arose in the Bhatpara area in the Alliance-Craig-Waverley Mills group and the Megna Mills. What happened here was that the weavers refused to go on to the 60 hours' week on the terms which had been decided on by the management. The workers did not strike, they worked on the old system but on the expiry of 54 hours in the week they refused to work any more. This continued till the 22nd July, when the weavers went into the mills, but it is reported they idled instead of working to their ordinary capacity. On the 22nd the management conceded the demands of the workers; but the workers carried on in the same way, and the management had to close down the mills. The closure was not a lock-out in the accepted sense, as the mill authorities, Government are informed, were quite willing to take all the men back at any time, provided they were willing to work on the ordinary standards.

The first actual strike that was reported was in the Baranagore area. This strike started on the 5th July owing to a dispute arising from the grievances of a section of spinners. The men resumed work on the 8th, but went out again on the 9th, and have remained out since. This strike, however, arose from a local cause but which was connected with the change-over to the sixty hours' week. It was not connected with the strikes further up the river. The trouble which started in the Alliance-Megna Mills was confined to these till the beginning of August. The first signs of the strike spreading were in the neighbouring Anglo-India Mills. In these mills the closing down was gradual, but on the 2nd of August all the mills in this group had closed down. In the meantime, trouble had broken out in the Sealdah area on the 29th July, but in the mills there, the strikes have been partial. One mill closed down, started again, and again closed down. Another closed down for a very brief period, restarted and has remained running. South of Calcutta, two mills, Clive and Union South, went out, and a local dispute led to a stoppage of the Hastings Mill at Rishra. At the beginning of this week many mills had to close. All the mills in Titagarh,

Khardah and Shamnagar closed, with the others in the Bhatpara, Kankinara and Naihati area, which had not hitherto stopped work. The position to-day is practically unchanged. Soorah had to close down yesterday, but Shamnagore opened with a partial staff this morning. Thus the trouble has, with slight exceptions, been confined to the Sealdah area and the area stretching from Baranagore to Naihati.

In practically all the latter stoppages no statement of grievances was put forward by the workers. So far as can be ascertained, specific issues have been raised only in the Alliance-Megna strikers and in the two localised cases of Hastings and Baranagore. In the Bhatpara area the action of the weavers is reported to have led to the stoppages. The same is true of Sealdah, but in Titagarh, Kankinara and Shamnagore, the stoppages have been caused by the abstention of the women workers. Leaflets have been distributed in the mill areas containing various demands. Mr. Laird has told us that the mill-owners are prepared to discuss whatever statement of grievances are put before them by their workers, and they have guaranteed to give their workers their correct proportionate wages if they get into touch with them. This should form a firm basis for negotiations, and if negotiations can be entered into, there is a good prospect of peace. Government are carefully and anxiously watching the situation, and they hope that nothing will be said in this debate which will prejudice the prospects of peace, which is the object and aim of all of us.

**Mr. SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE:** Sir, the Hon'ble Mr. McAlpin congratulated Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy on his moderate speech. Personally, I doubt if it is a compliment at all. In any case I believe that if the Hon'ble Member had an opportunity of hearing Dr. Roy till the end of his speech, he might have an occasion to change his opinion with regard to that, and it is a pity that the bell rang when he was attempting to develop the most important subject, that is loss of life and attendant suffering that has arisen out of the strike situation in the mill areas. Sir, everybody in this House is aware that a few days ago there was a fracas between the strikers on the one hand and a certain number of unknown agents on the other. They have been described by some people as Pathans and others as mill-guards. I believe in one paper, which is not a Congress organ nor a nationalist paper, they are described as mill-guards. In any case, I think, the public have a right to know whether these Pathans are really mill-guards or simply money-lenders with whom we are familiar in Calcutta. There is particular reason why one should feel disinclined to regard them as merely money-lenders and not as mill-guards. We find that the trouble arose between these Pathans and the strikers from Jagatdal. The strikers from Jagatdal had gone to Gouripore to persuade their fellow mill workers there to join them. A fracas arose between them and the Pathans.

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A fracas arose between the strikers from Jagatdal when they had gone to Gouripore and the Pathans who were prowling about there. Consequently there is no reason to believe that there is any relation in the matter of money-lending between the Pathans and the workers from Jagatdal. Certain facts have been disclosed in the courts at Barrackpore, particularly in the evidence of an Inspector and a Sub-Inspector of Police which really lend colour to the suspicion entertained in certain quarters that these people were not really money-lenders but that they had some connection either as mill-guards or in some other capacity with the mill authorities. Whatever it is, Government ought to inquire into it and the public have a right to be satisfied regarding the real character of these Pathans. We know to our cost the unfortunate development that arose in Bombay some months ago where a similar situation took place as a result of the fracas between the strikers and the armed guards employed by the mill authorities. I believe everyone in this House will agree with me that we have no desire that the incidents that occurred in Bombay should be repeated in and near about Calcutta, and for that reason it is necessary to take a prompt action with regard to this incident.

One of the speakers—I think it was Mr. Laird—tried to make out that there was really no cause for the workers to go on strike; that the strike had been engineered by outside interference and that intimidation had been at work. Well, Sir, it is true that intimidation has been at work but the question is who is practising this intimidation. Are not certain members of the police resorting to intimidation? I think I can prove to any honest body of people that the members of the police had been practising intimidation on the workers. It is no news to this country that whenever unfortunately there is a labour dispute the agents of Government, the police, always side with the capitalists. No wonder. We have it from Lord Curzon that administration and exploitation must go hand in hand and this will go on until we are a free people. The hon'ble member who questioned whether there was a real, genuine, cause for a strike, himself made certain admissions in his speech which show that even according to him there are certain grievances. He said that in some of the mills the maternity benefits were not allowed and if the Managing Agents were approached they would certainly remove that grievance. That was his own admission. As far as I remember, I did not catch his words properly, but he said if the Managing Agents were approached they would also rectify other grievances. So we have it from his own lips that there are certain grievances.

The question is when did the trouble really start. I believe there are many members in this House who know that nearly eight months ago the trouble was brewing; the trouble was brewing mainly because

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of the apprehension of the workers even as early as a year ago that sometime in 1929, there would be a change from the double shift system to a single shift system in many of the mills. It was apprehended in many quarters not only in the ranks of labour but in many other quarters as well, that as soon as that conversion from the double shift to the single shift took place there would be an occasion for the workers to go on strike. Apart from that there is a long-standing grievance. I know the condition of these workers in many of these mills. Personally I have had on several occasions to visit them in some of the slums and I know the horrible condition under which the Hindu and Mussalman mill-hands have to work and live. But there is another side of the picture, Sir.

We find that these mill authorities are making crores and crores of money. Have not the workers a right to ask for a living wage and a decent condition of life? If the hon'ble members sitting opposite admit that right in the case of their own countrymen, why should not they admit the same right in the case of the coloured people? We have had it from no less an authority than several members of Parliament, Mr. Mardy Jones, Mr. Johnston and others, who had visited these hovels that the condition of the slums in the jute mills is simply horrible, and they are all the more horrible when one considers for a single moment the huge profit made by these mills. If the mills were unable to pay such thumping dividends I could understand their difficulties, but there is no such difficulty. On the other hand they make crores and crores of rupees, but they will not give a decent living wage to the Indian worker who asks for nothing more at present. I am afraid if this modest and moderate demand is not conceded now in full, the time will come, and that time is not far off, when these workers will no longer be content with this modest demand but will put forward a bigger claim for the ultimate ownership of capital. As India stands to-day the workers feel that their demands are quite moderate and, to put it in a nutshell, their demand is for a bare decent living wage simply. I believe no fair-minded man will deny them this right particularly in view of the fact that these mills are for years and years making huge profits.

One word with regard to the attitude of Government. I have already said quite clearly that Government have not been as impartial as they ought to have been in this matter. On the other hand, in certain areas the agents of Government have openly sided with the mill authorities and have gone out of their way in order to check the legitimate activities of the labour leaders and the labourers. I know this from my own experience at Budge Budge where a labour meeting was to be held. An order was promulgated under section 144 there also. This curious section is employed for the purpose of checking the legitimate activities of the labour leaders and labourers. Government can easily take action under the Trade Disputes Act and the

present situation is such that there is sufficient reason for doing so. There has been a loss of life and there is a reasonable apprehension that the conditions which prevailed in Bombay several months ago might be repeated in and near about Calcutta. It is for this reason I would demand of Government as an act of bare justice that they should intervene and see to it that the strike is terminated as early as possible. I do not believe in an appeal, I stand on my rights and I demand that Government should intervene as soon as possible in order to bring about a satisfactory and honourable settlement of the dispute. If they do not desire to do that let them throw the Trade Disputes Act into the waste paper basket. They may go further and say : Let there be an arbitration and if either party rejects the proposal then that party will certainly stand condemned in the eyes of the whole of India. I repeat once more that the demand of the jute workers is the most moderate demand, and even if this demand is not conceded to-day they may begin by asking for bigger things. As things stand to-day the dispute can be settled if this modest and moderate demand is conceded and I believe Government have a duty in this matter. It is not fair on the part of Government to join hands with the mill authorities; it is for them to side with the workers and bring about a happy and honourable solution of this dispute.

**Mr. T. LAMB:** Mr. President, my friend, Mr. Laird, has told you that it is his opinion that the present strike is not in the true sense of the word a trade dispute but is a strike which has been engineered by outside interference. He has dealt with the matter broadly, but with your permission, Sir, I will give details of the strike from the beginning so that the House may understand and appreciate all that has taken place. It has been stated that the Jagatdal area is the nerve centre of the present trouble. There the strike really started and from there it has spread to present dimensions. I am intimately connected with the Jagatdal area as my residence was there until quite recently, and as the firm with which I am associated are Managing Agents of four mills which have been frequently mentioned during the strike, these are Alliance, Alexandra, Waverley and Craig. In addition to these there are also the Megna Mills, Anglo-India Mills and Auckland Mill. That group comprises the Jagatdal area and the Kankinarrah group is immediately to the north, the dividing line being merely a wall. These two groups have a total of 9,000 looms equal to 50,000 workers and run practically in an unbroken line from south to north. Up to the time of the present trouble the workers were happy and content and relations between workers and management have always been of the best. As everyone knows the change from 54 hours to 60 hours' working is blamed for what has taken place but I hope to show that there have been and still exist other factors. Since 1921 the Indian Jute Mills have been running steadily at 54

hours a week and the change from 54 to 60 hours as from 1st July was forced upon the mills in order to retain for India trade which would otherwise pass to Dundee and the Continent, to India's loss. The increased working hours meant a change in wages. Such changes were intimated to the workers in good time prior to the change and there was no protest from workers to the managements when the new working hours began. There was no hint of any trouble until the end of the first week. I am now talking of the Jagatdal group where the trouble started. Anglo-India, Alliance, Megna, Waverley and Craig are all single shift mills and that meant 5½ days' working. At the end of the first five days Alliance, Megna, Waverley and Craig weavers intimated that they had no desire to work five and a half days on the scale of pay offered and stated they would not work more than 54 hours per week as previously. They cleaned up their looms and walked out peacefully. There was no disturbance but they refused to take their pay tickets. The following week the same thing happened and also during the third week. This applies only to weavers—the remainder of the labour being content to work the extra hours and were satisfied with wages paid. Meantime during these weeks Anglo-India and Alexandra had continued to work the full 60 hours without any trouble, and it is important to note the weavers' wages at these mills had been calculated on precisely the same basis as at the mills where they had refused to work 60 hours. Auckland Jute Mills also had no complaint and no trouble. The complaint of the dissatisfied weavers was that we had increased the number of cuts necessary to obtain bonus whilst they desired that the number should remain as it was for 54 hours. For the benefit of those who are not acquainted with jute mill conditions I should explain that weavers in addition to their ordinary pay are given a bonus when they take off a certain number of "cuts"—a "cut" being 100 yards of cloth. Bonus terms vary but we can take as an example a weaver who during 54 hours' working took off 9 cuts. For this he would receive say 12 annas in addition to his pay. On going on to 60 hours' working he was asked to take off one cut more for the same bonus that is 10 cuts. It is a simple calculation. If a man can take off 9 cuts in 54 what shall he take off in 60—10 cuts. As I have said the weavers objected to this additional cut and that was the origin of the trouble so far as Jagatdal was concerned. I have shown you that they worked peacefully for three weeks but only for 54 hours and had not taken their pay tickets during that time. On Monday, 22nd July, the Alliance, Megna, Waverley and Craig weavers returned to their work but did not really work, stating that they had been told to do only half their usual work for which they would receive at least Rs. 1-8 per day. That was the beginning of what has been mildly termed outside interference. On the same day the Managing Agents of the mills affected had a meeting at which it was decided to meet the weavers' demands in full. This

information was immediately telephoned to the mills. The sardars were sent for so that they might spread the news to the weavers. This was done and in addition notices to the same effect were placed on the mill gates. Notwithstanding this the weavers returned next morning and continued the tactics of the previous day. It was impossible for the mills to run in this way and they closed down at 11 a.m. I personally visited the mills and talked to the workers. They assured me that they were satisfied with what had been done and they had no complaint to make and no further requests to put forward but they would not return to work unless on the hookum of their Union, a Union which I may say was born during the strike and not to be confused with that run by Mr. K. C. Ray Chaudhuri. Alexandra, Auckland and Anglo-India were still running with a full compliment of labour and no trouble. This did not please those who were on strike, and what has been termed "peaceful" picketing was openly indulged in with a view of getting the other mills of the district to come out, but during that week these mills continued to work. On the night of Monday, 29th July, peaceful picketing was carried to Alexandra coolie lines by a mob who made dire threats to the workers of that mill if they continued to work. Result, next day Alexandra was closed, but the following day, Wednesday, they were not molested and work was resumed and carried on until 8 a.m. on Thursday, 1st August, when a mob attempted to enter the mill to prevail upon the workers to stop work. The workers intimated that they would strenuously resist any such attempt, and in order to save trouble and possible bloodshed the Manager closed down the mill and it has remained closed. So called "peaceful picketing" was then turned on Anglo-India Jute Mills with the usual threats and intimidation. Women were threatened with assault and worse which I cannot mention here, shop-keepers were threatened to have their shops looted if they supplied workers with food and life generally made very unpleasant. These methods prevailed and 4 Anglo-Indian mills closed down on the following day, August 2nd. Mills in the Kankinarrah district did not resume on Monday, 5th August, due to causes similar to those already explained. Titaghur district were in the same position and have also been closed since Monday, the 5th. It should be noted that in regard to all the mills which I have mentioned only Alliance, Megna, Waverley and Craig have put forward any grievance or demands to the various managements. The demands of the first named have been met so there is no good reason why they should not be working, and the fact that others have put forward no demands show that they have no grievance and that they are content with new conditions and wages and we know that the great majority are willing to work if intimidation is stopped and protection provided.

Now, Sir, the weavers of the Alliance, Megna, Waverley and Craig Mills have drawn no wages since Friday, 28th June, which means they

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have four weeks' wages which have all along been available but to date are unclaimed. It might be thought that they refused to accept them as they are on the basis to which they objected, but this is not so as the decision of 22nd July was retrospective as from 1st July, the opening date of the 60 hours' working and wages were altered accordingly. What does this mean? It can only be inferred that financial assistance for strikers must be forthcoming from someone.

**Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY:** Sir, I move that the closure be now put.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** It is much too early, Mr. Roy.

**Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA:** May I, Sir, put a question to the Hon'ble Member-in-charge?

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** Yes.

**Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether he is prepared to take action under the Trade Disputes Act, as an answer to this question will certainly have some influence on members of this House as to how they would vote on this motion?

**The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McALPIN:** As there are negotiations in progress between the mill-owners and their employees and as attempts are being made to bring about a settlement, it does not seem that the present moment is opportune for such action.

**Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY:** Sir, I wonder what would be the attitude of the Hon'ble Member in those cases where the negotiations are at an end and where there is no possibility at all of any resumption of work on an amicable basis.

I am grateful, Sir, to Dr. Roy for having permitted us to discuss the very serious situation that has arisen out of the strike in the jute mills, for, in my humble opinion, Sir, it is not simply a small trade dispute, which can be adjusted by negotiations between employers and employees, but a cataclysm of an unprecedented nature. I have within the last few days come across many labourers from the various affected areas, and they have told me that they have never within their experience come across a strike with features similar to those of the present one. They have not been able to understand up till now as to how the strike came about and how it is being kept up, and hence in order to appreciate the situation and arrive at a just and correct understanding of it, it is necessary that we should know all the facts.

It is well known that though in many cases a strike is started in a mill on the basis of a certain demand, the strikers do not go back to work even after the demand has been granted. Clearly, this shows that although there may have been bona-fide reasons for commencing a strike, there is no bona-fide reason for its continuance.

Many theories have been advanced as to the reasons for the present strike. Some of these theories are ludicrous, some have a grain of truth behind them, and some of them are perhaps true.

Sir, one rumour, which is rampant in the mill areas, is that a large number of hessian dealers and speculators are manipulating the strike in order that the price of hessians might rise and they might benefit by it. It is said in the market that the position of these hessian dealers was very weak before the strike, and many of them were on the point of collapse, but that, owing to the break-out and continuance of the strike, they have been able to recover and strengthen their position, and that the time for ending the strike will come only when they think it advisable to do so, i.e., after they have profited sufficiently by the discontinuance of work in the mills.

Sir, then there are others who say that this strike has been engineered really in retaliation for the Meerut trial. If you carefully consider the features of the strike, then you will be able to say to what extent this is true.

Again, there are others who say that this is nothing else but a general strike, which will pervade all the mills in order that there may be a general reconstitution of wages, and that, although the workers in individual mills will come out with individual grievances, the strike as a whole will be kept up, until the grievances of workers in all the mills have been fully and adequately redressed.

Sir, this last theory raises a very serious question. The first mills that went on strike, as we have been told, were the Baranagore Jute Mills. The remarks that Mr. Laird has made to-day as regards the condition of the dispute in the mills at present do not affect the workers in the Baranagore Jute Mills. Since both Mr. Laird and the Hon'ble Mr. McAlpin wish that we ought not to say anything here to-day which may prejudice negotiations, I may state at once for the information of this House that, having approached both the mill manager and the workers concerned, there is no negotiation whatsoever between the employers and the employed to jeopardise. The workers of these mills came out some time on the 5th of July last. As has been pointed out to this House, they went back to work on the 8th of July and they came out again on the 9th and 10th July. Their grievances are many. They tell us that their main grievance is that the wages which they get in the Baranagore Jute Mills are lower than the wages obtainable in any other mill. Sir, Mr. Laird has told us

that it is well known to the Indian Jute Mills Association that the cost of living is higher nearer Calcutta than away from it. The owners of the Baranagore Jute Mills tell us that at Baranagore the cost of living is lower than what it is anywhere else, that the price of foodstuffs is lower in Baranagore than other places, and that they charge less for accommodation than anywhere else. This is their considered statement, and it is in direct opposition to the statement made by Mr. Laird as well as to the statements of the strikers themselves.

The next grievance of the workers is that they are assaulted, abused and fined on the slightest pretext. They say that the fine-roll of Baranagore is higher than that of any other mill in existence. This is denied. They are prepared to prove that it is so, and they call upon the authorities, whoever they may be—the Indian Jute Mills Association or the Government—to examine the fine-rolls of the various mills.

They also state that the number of relieving hands at Baranagore is lower than anywhere else. The number is based on a certain fixed proportion, but that is never kept up, owing to what is called "theft of tickets," in which the sardars indulge, and which, it is alleged, is done with the connivance—shall I say?—of the persons in charge. The result is that the number of relieving hands is very much fewer than what it ought to be.

Sir, another grievance is as regards the cleaning of machinery. The workers state that the machinery is cleaned when it is running, which is against the Factory Rules. Of course, the Managing Agents deny it, and state that the machinery is no doubt cleaned during the five working days, but that is done when the machinery is not running. I mentioned this statement of the mill authorities to the workers, and it evoked a gentle hilarious ripple of laughter from them even in their piteous condition. They state that all the 3,000 workers know that in these mills the machinery is cleaned during the working hours, i.e., when the machinery is running.

Now, Sir, as I have already said, there is one feature which is common to all these strikes, viz., that though the workers might have struck on account of genuine grievances, the strike is kept up for other reasons totally unconnected with those grievances. These reasons continually and persistently crop up one after another with the sole object of prolonging the strike.

I have seen the letter which was sent to the authorities of the Baranagore Mills on behalf of the labourers. It is stated there that unless the mill authorities put the workers on the same footing as that of their comrades in the Belur Mills, they would not agree to work for 60 hours a week, though they were prepared to work, as hitherto, for 54 hours. It is not stated in that letter that the wages given to them are much less than what they are entitled to, although

that is the position which the strikers now take up. In essence the grievance is higher wages, but it may well be said that they have shifted from their original grounds. This is a feature common to most strikes on account of the general illiteracy which prevails amongst the workers, and which, I am afraid, is exploited by unscrupulous people.

Sir, the question that I would ask of Government is this: What are we to do when we find that there are genuine grievances of labourers to be redressed, and which the management are not prepared to meet?

6.30 p.m.

Can we then not request the Government to step in and see that the claims between the two are adjusted? I think, Sir, that in those cases where there are no negotiations in progress, where the mill managers have stated that unless the workers go back to work they would refuse to listen to their demands, it is time for Government to step in, provided the Government is sure of the fact that the strikers have got a genuine grievance. I think, Sir, that a stage has arisen, at any rate in this dispute between the Baranagore strikers and the mill managers, when Government should step in and do justice. It is well known, Sir, that while on the one side there are weighty resources, on the other side the mill-hands will very shortly have to go back to work without having their grievances adjusted, or will go back home, or will take money from the money-lenders to such an extent that they will not be able to repay until their dying day. I would suggest that in the interest both of the employers and the employed the Government should step in before matters have gone too far. Sir, quite apart from the individual cases of the strike there are many other things which Government might rectify and consider this a suitable opportunity for rectifying.

Is there any reason why arbitration or conciliation boards should not be formed in order that strikes between the employers and the employed may be adjusted? Government may say that they do not wish to interfere in the affairs of private employers, but where the private employer is so heavily weighted that it is quite out of the realm of an ordinary trade dispute, and has become a general menace, it is the duty of Government certainly to interfere and see that the arbitration of Government is accepted both by the employer and the employed.

Then, Sir, Government may well see that a uniform wage is paid in all the mills, due regard being had to those benefits that particular managements may give to the workers. A uniform wage should certainly be paid, and this uniform wage should be a living wage. There should be uniformity of rules for the amelioration of the condition of the labourers in such matters as housing, education, sanitation, etc. I submit that there is absolutely no reason why Government should not

intervene at this stage and settle the dispute. We do not want a repetition of such strikes and we dread the terrible consequences of its continuance. We do not know when the strike will end. We are told that even in those cases where the demands have been granted the workers have not gone back and that in some other cases not even the demands have been formulated. In such cases, I think, the management are entirely justified, whatever my friend Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy and my very respected friend Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose may say, in coming to the conclusion that there are other forces behind the strike than genuine grievances. I know many cases where the workers have met me and have asked me to adjust their differences and to place their grievances before the mill managers, but were prevented from coming to me by interested persons. One cannot, Sir, with all respect to the other side, shut his eyes to these things. Sir, on the one hand there is the interest of the employer; on the other there is a genuine grievance amongst the labourers and the conflict is complicated by the presence of a disturbing factor of unknown potency. I think under the circumstances Government is the only power that can step in and bring about a settlement. I feel, Sir, although one has no desire whatever to jeopardise the negotiations between the employer and the employed, it is not likely that they would come to any fruition, and I think we may appeal to Government on behalf of the labourers that they may step in and end this unfortunate situation before it gets out of hand.

**Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY:** Sir, the question may now be put.

(Mr. Travers caught the eyes of the Hon'ble the President and was called upon to speak.)

**Mr. W. L. TRAVERS:** Mr. President, Sir, we on this side entirely appreciate the position of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy in this matter in that he is a representative of the jute mill area; it is of course his business to bring anything in regard to the condition of its labour before this Council; but, Sir, we would point out to Dr. Roy that there are many others in this Council, who are every bit as sincerely desirous for the contentment of labour as he is, and that it is not confined entirely to that side. Further, I suggest, Sir, that he is, in certain instances, taken in by his sympathy for the strikers. Their case has been taken as proved, let me say, with insufficient investigation. I would cross swords with him on one point only as an instance. He said that an increase of hours meant increased profit. Now, Sir, I would point out that in this case that is extremely improbable, to say the least of it. The movement in the jute mills for increased hours and increased production was chiefly to retain trade. Bengal and Assam have a monopoly, it is true, in the growth of jute, but they have no monopoly in the manufacture of it, and, I think, in recent

years more and more jute has been exported to be manufactured in England and Germany, and, I am sure, nobody in the Council should desire that that should be the case. Moreover is it not the case that owing to restricted production America is doing its best to get a substitute for jute? They have a special expert staff of engineers at work at this moment trying to invent machinery that would convert cotton as a substitute for jute fabrics in some forms. I think, increased production for that reason is essential. It may mean increased profit, but at the moment on the situation as it is, I beg to differ from Dr. Roy that it will be so immediately.

Now, Sir, there is another point which arose in the course of the debate, and which, I am informed, is untrue—not in accordance with fact—and that is in regard to the increase of hours from 54 to 60 and in the old system a worker could do 9 pieces, now he can do nearly 10, and it is stated that the workers do not get any benefit for this increase. I have made inquiries in regard to that point, and I am informed that those who cannot complete the fabric will remain on their machine and that they do receive the benefit in the following week. Therefore the allegation that they do not get proportionate increased bonuses is not true.

Sir, leaving details aside, what I am concerned with, and what everyone in this Council is concerned with, is anxiety that this strike should cease at the earliest possible moment. I am all for Dr. Roy's attitude that the workers should receive a just settlement. But I think it is essential that the settlement should be made at the very earliest possible moment. When one thinks of what happened recently in Bombay, and when one thinks that also in our neighbourhood here there are 175 to 200 thousand people out of work, and that some little thing may happen, some little wind may blow, that may set in movement some terrible catastrophe such as that happened in Bombay, I say that we should strive our utmost to settle the strike as early as possible. Then, there is the loss, of course, that is brought about by this strike. One's sympathy, of course, naturally goes to the wage-earners, and I understand that the loss to the hands is something like 10 or 12 lakhs of rupees a week. Now, Sir, I have listened with the greatest respect to Mr. Suhrawardy's speech and I think that it has more knowledge in it than any other. I suggest to Dr. Roy and Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose and Mr. Suhrawardy to use their personal influence in the matter and to try their very best to get the jute workers to go to the management and state their terms to them. The management say that the workers have not formulated their demand (A voice: That has been done). That they are ready to listen to their demands is a fact and they will listen to them as soon as they are presented. I suggest that the first thing to be done in this strike is to take the workers to the managers.

**Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA:** Sir, the question may now be put.

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** The request that the question be now put has been repeated to me for the third time. I do not think it will be an infringement of the rights of reasonable debate if it is now put under section 46.

On the closure question being put, a division was taken with the following result:—

#### AYES.

Ahmed, Maulvi Shamsuddin.  
 Ali, Maulvi Hassan.  
 Bagchi, Babu Romeo Chandra.  
 Baksh, Maulvi Syed Majid.  
 Banerjee, Dr. Pramathanath.  
 Banerjee, Babu Prometh Nath.  
 Banerji, Mr. P.  
 Basu, Babu Santosh Kumar.  
 Bose, Babu Bijoy Krishna.  
 Bose, Mr. Subhas Chandra.  
 Chatterjee, Srijut Bijay Kumar.  
 Chatterji, Babu Amarendra Nath.  
 Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Alimuzzaman.  
 Chaudhuri, Maulvi Ashrafuddin.  
 Choudhury, Maulvi Nural Absar.  
 Chowdhury, Haji Badi Ahmed.  
 Chowdhury, Maulvi Abdul Ghani.  
 Das, Dr. Mohini Mehan.  
 Das Gupta, Dr. J. M.  
 Dutt, Babu Sarai Kumar.  
 Fazlullah, Maulvi Muhammad.  
 Ganguli, Babu Pratul Chandra.  
 Ghose, Babu Amarendra Nath.  
 Gupta, Mr. Jagesh Chandra.  
 Hakim, Maulvi Abdul.  
 Hashemy, Maulvi Syed Jalaluddin.  
 Himsingha, Babu Prabhu Deyal.  
 Hoque, Kazi Emdadul.  
 Hossain, Maulvi Muhammad.  
 Hug, Khan Sahib Maulvi Bazil.

Karim, Maulvi Abdul.  
 Khan, Babu Debendra Lal.  
 Khan, Maulvi Tamizuddin.  
 Mazumdar, Mr. Birendranath.  
 Moitra, Babu Surendra Mohan.  
 Moitra, Srijut Jegendra Nath.  
 Mukherjee, Srijut Taraknath.  
 Naskar, Babu Hem Chandra.  
 Pain, Babu Bareda Prabirna.  
 Pal Choudhuri, Mr. Ranjit.  
 Peddar, Mr. Ananda Mehan.  
 Ray, Dr. Kumud Sankar.  
 Ray, Srijut Radha Govinda.  
 Ray Chaudhuri, Babu Sanat Kumar.  
 Roy, Babu Manmatha Nath.  
 Roy, Dr. Bidhan Chandra.  
 Roy, Mr. Bijoy Prasad Singh.  
 Roy, Mr. D. N.  
 Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar.  
 Roy, Mr. Sadhan Chandra.  
 Roy Choudhuri, Babu Hem Chandra.  
 Roy Choudhuri, Rai Bahadur Satyendra Nath.  
 Saadatullah, Maulvi Muhammad.  
 Samad, Maulvi Abdus.  
 Sarker, Babu Naliniranjan.  
 Sen Gupta, Mr. J. M.  
 Shah, Maulvi Abdul Hamid.  
 Singh, Srijut Taj Bahadur.  
 Tarkathirtha, Kaviraj Bimalananda, Pundit Bhushan.

#### NOES.

Barma, Rai Sahib Panohanan.  
 Blair, Mr. J. R.  
 Cassells, Mr. A.  
 Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Haikur Rahman.  
 Cohen, Mr. D. J.  
 Colman, Mr. E. R.  
 Dain, Mr. G. R.  
 Dash, Mr. A. J.  
 Eason, Mr. G. A.  
 Farquhar, Khan Bahadur K. G. H.  
 Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.  
 Ghosh, Mr. M. C.  
 Ghuznavi, the Hon'ble Alhadji Sir Abderkarim.

Gilechrist, Mr. R. N.  
 Goenka, Rai Bahadur Badridas.  
 Guha, Mr. P. N.  
 Gurner, Mr. C. W.  
 Hogg, Mr. G. P.  
 Hopkins, Mr. W. S.  
 Hossain, Nawab Musarrul, Khan Bahadur.  
 Hussein, Maulvi Latifat.  
 Inosh, Mr. J.  
 Jenkins, Dr. W. A.  
 Kasem, Maulvi Abul.  
 Khan, Khan Sahib Maulvi Muazzam Ali.  
 Laird, Mr. R. B.  
 Lamb, Mr. T.  
 Leslie, Mr. M.

Maiti, Mr. Mukunda Behari.  
 McAlpin, the Hon'ble Mr. M. C.  
 McCloskie, Mr. E. T.  
 Mitter, the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder.  
 Mobery, the Hon'ble Mr. A. N.  
 Nag, Reverend B. A.  
 Nazimuddin, Mr. Khwaja.  
 Ormond, Mr. E. C.  
 Philip, Mr. J. V.  
 Rahman, Mr. A. F. M. Abdur-  
 Ray Chaudhuri, Mr. K. C.  
 Rose, Mr. G. F.

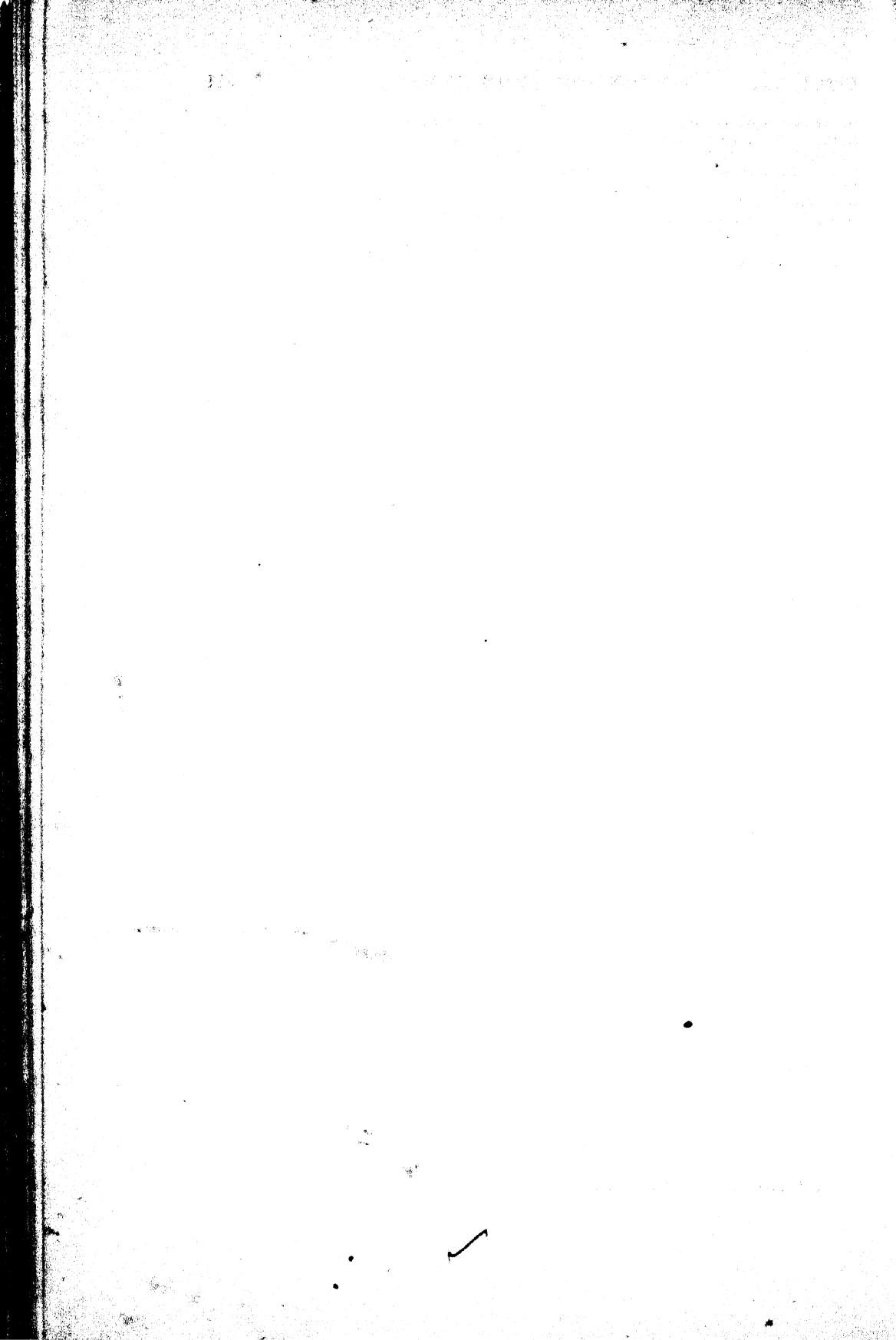
Roy, Mr. Sarat Kumar.  
 Rushforth, Mr. F. V.  
 Sarkar, Sir Jadunath.  
 -arker, Mai Sahib Robati Mohan.  
 Skinner, Mr. S. A.  
 Selaiman, Maulvi Muhammad.  
 Suhrawardy, Mr. H. S.  
 Tate, Major General Godfrey.  
 Thompson, Mr. W. H.  
 Travers, Mr. W. L.  
 Twynam, Mr. H. J.

The Ayes being 59 and the Noes 51 the motion for closure was carried.

The motion that the business of the Council be adjourned was then put and agreed to.

### **Prorogation.**

**Mr. PRESIDENT:** I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor to announce that the Council stands prorogued.



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